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NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF SAINT BASIL

8



1947-1948





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These letters deal mostly with Assumption  
College and the Parish of Chatham, Ontario.



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE  
Clover Hill  
Toronto

3 novembre 1869.

Bien cher et vénéré Supérieur.

Voici des nouvelles d'un autre genre. Mgr. de Sandwich a si bien modifié avec l'aide de son conseil les conditions déjà stipulées par lui que je ne vois pas comment nous pouvons nous engager dans cette affaire. L'expression générale ici n'est pas une de désappointement. Nous nous sommes vite consolés. Je vous envoie copie de la lettre de sa Grandeur et copie de ma réponse. Cela vous dira tout. Je n'exprime que les sentiments de mes confrères et les miens propres. Voyez et jugez. Nous nous esmermons pour faire plaisir à cet évêque et pendant qu'il était en négociation avec nous il aurait, m'a-t-on dit, offert ce collège aux Jésuites qui



l'auraient refusé. Si vous n'acceptez pas les nouvelles conditions, le colonie projetée devient inutile, grand embarras de moins, et petite perte. Je suis du côté de Sandwich.

Mgr. de Toronto a pris le mer Samedi dernier. Je le quittai en New York le vendredi, m'y étant rendu pour l'ordination de Mr. McEvoy. Il fut ordonné pretre le vendredi et le samedi j'étais de retour à Toronto. Mgr. Lynch fit toutes les ordinations et fut d'une humeur charmante. Faites lui un peu fite. Cela ne fait pas que Mr. Mallony vous tienne au courant de son arrivée au Noviciat. James McEvoy va beaucoup mieux. Son sejour à les Nouvelles Orléans, où il se rend la semaine prochaine, le remettra je crois parfaitement. Je ne sais rien de Louisville et d'Owen Sound. Ces Messieurs doivent correspondre directement avec vous, et vous tenir au courant. Après le départ de Mr.





Cherrier de Louisville, Mr. Hours m'écrivit une lettre abusive. Je n'yai pas repondu. Gardez cela pour vous. Nous allons à l'ordinaire. Ma santé est excellente. Je vous assure cependant que l'on ne pas à ne rien faire.

J'ai versé dans la caisse de la maison et mis au credit de Louisville \$120 piastres que vous m'aviez avancies en propre pour l'ostensoir de Vallon. Mon traitement de cette année et ce que j'ai economisé sur mes Messes depuis mon retour m'ont tiré d'affaire. Je sais que vous avez envoyé de l'argent à ma soeur. Ayez la bonté de m'en dire le montant après que je paie cette dette au plus tôt. Il y a long temps que je n'ai rien reçu de Vallon et je commence à être en souci. Cependant que la sainte volonté de Dieu soit faite. Un de mes ami m'a fait un petit cadeau qui me à même d'envoyer



quelque argent à ma mère. Je le ferai passer par votre entremise. Je vis en gueux, mais j'ai la coeur content.

COPIE DE LA LETTRE DE MGR. WALSH, 27th OCT.

My dear Father Vincent:

On yesterday my council assembled and among other matters deliberated on the terms of the proposed relative to the Sandwich College signed by your venerated Superior. The Council objected to giving the parish of Sandwich in charge to the Basilian Fathers for reasons which it is unnecessary to mention but which implied no disrespect or want of confidence in any way towards them. It also objected to a collection to be made throughout the diocese as besides the local wants of each mission, which are for the most part very urgent, there are already established two annual collections. All the other consider-



ations were unanimously accepted.

Much as I desire to have a branch of your Community in my diocese (and this desire I have given unmistakable proofs) I should not like to run counter to the collective advice of my Council on the points above mentioned.

Should your Fathers consent to accept the College on the other conditions specified, they will receive a hearty welcome from the clergy and laity of the diocese, and eventually perhaps more assistance than would be anticipated. I may say en passant, that the College is not devoid of furniture, as it is already provided with stoves and a considerable amount of , benches,

etc. Should you however decide not to accept (quod obsit) I trust that in any case these feelings of friendliness and kindness which have since our past acquaintance always existed



between the Community of St. Basil and the present Bishop of this diocese will not be disturbed. I am my dear Father Vincent, with much esteem,

Yours sincerely in Xo.

✦ John Bp. of Sandwich.

REPOSE

31 Oct.

My dear Lord:

This morning after my return from New York your letter was handed to me by Father Frachon. I well understand that your Lordship cannot act contrary to the advice of the members of your council and in accordance with former understanding.

I am inclined to believe that the College on the last proposed conditions will not be accepted by the Superior General. For the 1st necessary condition to be useful to others is that of





existence and it seems to me, judging from past experience, that existence as a College could not be insured on the conditions at present proposed. Still I do not mean to prejudge the case. I merely give you my own private opinion such as I will transmit to my Superior. He may then do as he thinks proper: whatever he will command, that we will do. This now & those of things will in no wise affect the good feelings that have ever existed between your Lordship and our humble little Community. We know that you are acting from the best of motives and strive to promote God's glory in your diocese to the best of your abilities; consequently this decision of your Council sanctioned by the authority of the Bishop of the diocese ought to be considered by us as a manifestation of God's holy will. Whatever then may come from it will



be for our greater good and as such must be gratefully received.

The only thing we might regret would be that of not being allowed to work under the direction of a Bishop whom we have learned for a long time to appreciate and love: and our only wish now is that you may find elsewhere laborers of greater pecuniary means who may succeed where our poverty would certainly prevent us from securing success.

I have the honor, etc.

C. Vincent.

Mes affectueux à tous les confrères. Je vous embrasse de tout coeur.

C. Vincent.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



London, Ontario, le 28 Avril, 1870.

Au très Rev. Père Supérieur des Basiliens.

Mon très Rev. Père et cher confrère:

Cette lettre, ainsi que les autres documents de Mgr. Walsh relatifs aux affaires de Sandwich, vous seront remis par M. Jamot, Vicaire Générale de Toronto.

Vous y verrez que Sa Grandeur vous offre maintenant le Collège et la Paroisse de Sandwich avec la terre attachée à l'Eglise, d'environ cent vingt arpents. Au lieu de la collection dans le diocèse que vous aviez demandée, et qu'il seroit impossible de faire en ce moment, Monseigneur vous offre ce qui vous sera aussi avantageux et avec moins d'embarras:- la rente des bancs de l'église de Sandwich, qui s'élève à environ douze cent piastres par an. Vous pourrez approprier cette rente pendant une



année, ou plus longtemps, s'il est nécessaire pour fournir votre Collège de ce qui est nécessaire. Les meubles ou autres articles qui appartiennent à l'établissement vous seront donnés par Sa Grandeur. Quant à ce qui a été acheté par Mr. Girardot, vous l'aurez à son compte.

Le Collège de l'Assomption malgré son personnel qui est extrêmement modeste à, en ce moment, cinquante deux pensionnaires sous la surintendance du Rev. Père Laurent qui est, en même temps, curé de la Paroisse et Supérieur du Collège. Ce Monsieur est assisté de Mr. Girardot *titulaire* et de trois ecclésiastiques. Cet établissement peut être considéré comme bien parti et n'a besoin que de passer entre les mains d'un Corps Religieux pour lui donner de la stabilité. Ce commencement déjà si satis-





faissant, en dépis du pauvre personnel, est dû en grande partie, à sa position avantageuse qu'il occupe: c'est la clef du Canada et des Etats Unis. Vous pouvez juger quel sera le succès lorsque l'établissement sera entre les mains d'une Société Religieuse dévouée à l'éducation de la jeunesse. Si vous n'avez pas assez de sujets, surtout la première année vous pourrez garder les ecclésiastiques qui sont employés à l'enseignement, et dont on est très content. De plus, Sa Grandeur vous en prêtera d'autres, au besoin. Nous avons un certain nombre d'ecclésiastiques au Séminaire de Montréal.

Quant à la paroisse de Sandwich qui est une des meilleures du diocèse, voici les renseignements que je puis vous donner. Cette paroisse a trois cent vingt familles, comme se démontre le recensement fait dernièrement par le Rev. Père



Bayard. Cette population est presque toute agricole et Canadienne. Il n'ya que neuf ou dix familles parlant l'Anglais. D'un autre coté, je me fais un plaisir de vous informer que les réparations urgentes et nécessaires que l'église de Sandwich demandait, ont été exécutées pendant le courant de cette année-ci. Un bon plancher en bois a remplacé un mauvais briquetage qui la rendait extrêmement humide et froide. Cette église est, de plus, échauffée par deux fornaises érigées en même temps. Cet édifice est maintenant très confortable et ne demandera aucun dépense pour bien des années. Le Rev. Père Laurent a dépensé deux mille piastres sur cette église. Tout est payé. Il est maintenant occupé à collecter pour acheter une belle cloche dont cette église avait grand besoin.

Les Pastoral Dues, ou dîme de la Paroisse de



Sandwich, exclusive des Baptêmes, mariages, enterrements, services, ect., s'élèvent à environ douze cent piastres. Le total des revenus de la paroisse est d'environ deux mille six cent piastres, y compris les bancs, dîmes, et perquisites.

Quant au Collège, il est fourni en ce moment de tout ce qui est nécessaire pour l'entretien de soixante personnes. Il y a, en ce moment, dans l'établissement, comme je l'ai remarqué plus haut, cinquante deux élèves, trois ecclésiastiques, Girardot et sa famille qui est très nombreuse. Le dernier, bien entendu, se retirera avant l'arrivée des Pères Baziliens. Ils auront à faire avec lui pour l'achat de ce qui lui appartient. Je suis convaincu que M. Girardot sera raisonnable et que vos Messieurs sentiront parfaitement avec lui, et du reste, si ce Monsieur



proposait des termes que vos Pères ne pourraient pas accepter, il leur sera aisé de se procurer tout ce dont ils auront besoin, au Windsor, ou au Détroit qui est vis-à-vis de Sandwich.

Maintenant, un mot au sujet de ce qui a pu vous paraître une contradiction, ou du moins, un changement de résolution de la part de l'Administration du Diocèse de London. Je dois vous avouer franchement que lorsque vos propositions par rapport à l'établissement de Sandwich furent mises sous les yeux du Conseil Diocésain composé d'un certain nombre de prêtres, ce ne fut pas ma faute, ni celle de Monseigneur si la proposition au sujet de la paroisse ne fut pas acceptée. Des motifs intéressés qui ont depuis été découverts, prévalirent en dépit de tout ce que je puis dire. Pour éviter tout contretemps sur l'affaire de Sandwich, on a jugé à propos,





cette fois-ci, de ne pas consulter le Conseil. Monseigneur et votre humble serviteur sommes les seuls qui soient au courant des offres qui vous sont faites en ce moment.

Je dois ajouter que toutes difficultés sont maintenant aplanies. Messieurs Laurent et Girardot comprennent que le fardeau est trop lourd pour leurs épaules et sont prêts à le passer en d'autres mains. Quoique le Collège et la paroisse soient sur un excellent pied, ils sont convaincus qu'ils ne pourraient pas continuer longtemps les efforts qu'une telle entreprise demande. Ils seront donc, l'un et l'autre, contents et satisfaits de voir une Communauté Religieuse en charge de la mission et du Collège de Sandwich. Il n'ya que quelques jours que le Père Laurent m'avouait qu'il regretoit beaucoup d'avoir opposé mes vues par rapport aux affaires



de Sandwich.

Nous espérons vivement, Sa Grandeur et moi, que vous serez à même d'entrer en fonction à Sandwich dans le courant de l'été prochain, en tout au Juillet. Je puis même vous ajouter, de la part de Monseigneur, que si vous avez en ce moment un prêtre dont vous puissiez disposer et que vous croyiez qualifié pour être curé de Sandwich, vous ferez bien de l'envoyer au plutôt possible. Une autre mission sera donnée au Père Laurent.

Espérant maintenant que toutes difficultés étant aplanies, le Diocèse sera bientôt enrichi d'une branche de votre excellente Société, il ne nous reste qu'à souhaiter que Dieu répande ses Bénédiction sur cette bonne oeuvre qui est éminemment destinée à procurer sa gloire et le salut des ames.



Ayez la bonté de nous écrire au plutôt. Sa Grandeur qui a cette fondation de Sandwich grandement à coeur, attendra votre réponse avec impatience.

Je dois vous informer, Mon très cher Père, si vous ne le savez déjà que le Saint Siège a autorisé la translation du Siège Episcopale de nouveau à London. Le Diocèse est donc, pour la seconde fois, le Diocèse de London, et ce propos je dirai que d'est dans l'Esprit de l'Eglise que lorsque un Siège est transféré, la partie du Diocèse qui perd son titre doit être dédommée par un Corps Religieux. C'est ce qui fut recommandé à Monseigneur Pinsoneault quant il transporta son Siège à Sandwich. Cardinal Barnabo lui suggéra, à cette occasion, de procurer une Société Religieuse pour London. C'est ce que Monseigneur fit en y'appelant les Pères Domin-



icains. Votre arrivé à Sandwich sera donc très à propos.

Je profite de cetter occasion pour renouveler nos anciens rapports d'amitié et de bons confrères. Vous m'avez pas oublié, sans doute, les travaux communes que nous avons entrepris, et les batailles dans lesquelles l'un et l'autre avons été engagés pour la cause commune de la Religion et de l'éducation religieuse. Vos collègues, si vous ne l'êtes pas vous-même, sont appelés a venir partager sur le même champ de bataille, les périls et les combats qui nous ont couvert d'une gloire commune. Présentez donc à vos braves guerriers le glorieux oriflamme, emblème de la victoire. Qu'ils viennent le planter à Sandwich où des succès non moins grands que ceux que vous avez remportés à Toronto, les attendent et couronneront leurs travaux.





Espérant recevoir bientôt l'heureuse nouvelle, j'ai l'honneur d'être, cher amie et ancien confrère,

Votre très humble et obéissant serviteur

J.M. Bruyere, V.G.

My dear M. Superior:

I have read this letter of Father Bruyere and I approve of it. I hereby accept all the articles contained in the document called "Concordat" which you sent to me last Autumn with the exception of article 4th which required a collection through the diocese. But as a substitute for this collection I will allow twelve hundred dollars out of the pew money of the Church of Sandwich. Hoping you will accept this call to Sandwich, I am most respectfully yours

♦ John Bp. of London.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Toronto, 19 juillet, 1870.

Bien cher et vénéré Supérieur:

Un mot à la hâte. Je viens de voir Mgr. Walsh en passe à Toronto pour l'Europe. Il ira peut être vous voir, s'il peut. Le contrat est signé suivant votre direction et le changement que vous demandiez. Je vous l'envoie ci-inclus. Nous partons demain pour Sandwich, le Père O'Connor et moi. Il vous écrira plus tard et vous donnera tous les détails que vous pourriez désirer. Il vous faut nous envoyer sans retard M. McBrady, Foy et Grant et Vernède de plus deux prêtres, à moins que ce dernier ne le sait déjà. Un seul alors suffirait. M. Dose ne ferait pas ici. Tous ceux qui le connaissent sont d'accord sur ce point. Ne nous l'envoyez pas, s'il vous plaît. Il nous faut ici des hommes sur lesquels on puisse compter. Vous pouvez outre M. Dose



trouver un volontaire pour un an, s'il ne voulait pas rester d'avantage. Il faut que ces Messieurs partent sans retard, vous en comprenez la raison. Nos classes s'ouvrent le 1re septembre. Nous pouvons retarder Sandwich jusqu'au quinze, mais c'est le plus.

Tout à vous en N.S.

C. Vincent.

De peur que la correspondance ne fait pas très sûre, je garde le contrat entre les mains jusqu'à nouvel ordre. Voici ce qui j'ai été ajouté et signé en remplacement de l'article 2me. "Au lieu de l'article deuxième Sa Grandeur Mgr. Walsh et le Supérieur Général s'accordent à laisser quelques sur le revenu des bancs de l'Eglise pendant un an ou plus, suivant les besoins du Collège, le somme de douze cents piastres pour fournir aux frais d'établissement." (Copied from the original in the General Archives)



St. Michael's College

Clover Hill, Toronto,

1<sup>er</sup> Septembre 1870.

Mon bien cher et vénéré Supérieur:

J'ai reçu il ya quelque temps votre dernière mais comme je voulais avant d'y répondre pouvoir vous donner quelque chose de positif j'ai attendu jusqu'à la fin de notre retraite. Nous avons conclu à retirer de Louisville. Mr. Aboulin et de le donner au Père O'Connor qui en fera un curé. M. Vernède, une fois ordonné lui viendra en aide, et en même temps se rendra utile au Collège. Il est bien facheux que le dernier et M. Grant ne soient pas de la première expectation. M. Fay aurait pu revenir seul. D'après ce que vous m'avez dit dans votre dernière Louisville ne présentant pas d'avenir nous n'avons pas balancé à reduire un personnel qui ne faisait





pas ses frais. Je ne crois pas que vous deviez vous mettre en souci au sujet de la conversation de Mgr. Lynch. Soyez sans crainte. Dès que j'apercevrai un petit nuage précurseur de quelque chose d'extraordinaire je vous le ferai savoir. Il aura assis à faire ici à son retour. M. McCoy n'est plus à Toronto. Si son charité était plus commune en hauts lieux le monde y gagnerait.

Je ne vois pas comment Mgr. Walsh voudrait revenir sur des conditions déjà signées. A sa place je n'y toucherait pas. On ne serait pas trop content à Sandwich si on séparait la paroisse du Collège. D'ailleurs un arbitraire qui n'offrirait pas des garanties de sécurité pour l'avenir.

M. Famy est parti pour la France le 20. Il y avait eu des faits graves. De plus il n'y avait



pas chez lui le moindre probabilité qu'ils ne se reproduisissent point encore, même dans une de nos maisons. Il nous sembla ici entièrement démoralisé. Il lui faudra du temps pour se remettre, si jamais cela arriva. M. McEvoy a passé quelques jours en Toronto. Il est actuellement à Paris avec le Père Dowling. Il était mieux, mais loin d'être bien. Pauvre Barry! Faites pour le mieux. Nous en prendrons soin s'il nous arrive. Sa soeur est entré au Noviciat le 15. Laissez M. Dose chez lui, ne le pressez pas de venir. Je ne connais par l'abbé Faure, je ne puis donc rien dire sur son compte.

Nous allons tous bien ici. Je ne suis pas sorti ces vacances. L'estomac pourrait aller mieux. Cependant il ne faut pas de plaindre. Les nouvelles qui nous arrivent par la cable commencent à nous relever le moral. Que Dieu



bénisse cette noble France et qu'elle redevienne fidèle à sa mission. Quelle haine contre elle de la part des Protestants! C'est incroyable. Tous nos catholiques prient fortement le Seigneur pour le succès des armées françaises. Que Dieu les entende! Je vous serai reconnaissant d'employer un peu moins souvent le conditionnel quand vous donnez une direction. C'est une mode qui n'est pas très clair. Je m'y trompe sans le vouloir. L'indicatif mode. Avec cela je vous suivrai partout. Mes amitiés à tous mes chers confrères. Je vous embrasse très affectueusement.

C. Vincent.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich, Aug 15/70  
Very Rev. and Dear Superior:

It is already some time since I received from you my appointment as Superior of this establishment, and you must find it very strange on my part not to have acknowledged it before this. But I did not wish to write before I would be able to give you some insight into things here; and as I am here only a couple of weeks, I could not well write before now.

In the first place I have to thank you for the regard you have shown for me in naming me the Superior; at the same time I regret exceedingly that you should have done so. You know the ill-success that has hitherto attended this place. It would seem a curse has been over it, and this thought really terrifies me at times, and I am very sorry you did not name an older and more experienced person for the position.





However I am here, and I will do my best, and I hope with the blessing of God that things will go better now. I will now give you a short account of things in general. In the first place I do not know if Father Vincent told you that although the Bishop has granted us the pew rents for one year or more in lieu of a collection throughout the Diocese, yet he wishes us to take it in this way. He does not want the people of the Parish to know that we are taking it, and consequently wishes me to appropriate \$300 or \$400 annually by this means it will take a long time before we will be paid back all we will require to spend, and if the people ever come to find it out we will be found fault with and not the Bishop. It certainly will not appear well; but on the other hand I think that if His Lordship told the people that he



made over to us the pew rent, they would receive us very badly. So the case is difficult in both its bearings. The Bishop allows me to raise in the Bank what money I will require for the present, but I cannot have it at less than 8 per cent paid in advance, which is very high. Moreover I will require a great deal of money, as you may judge by the following list of furniture, and I give it you complete. There are in the College, belonging to it, about 45 bad bed-steads, 7 desk for the Study, 4 tables for the refectory, about a dozen very poor benches, not quite a dozen old chairs, and 4 or 5 stoves, and that is all. I forgot to say half a dozen old mattresses. There is no furniture in any of the masters' rooms, no mattresses, no bed clothes, no furniture for classrooms, and so on for the rest. All the house wants painting very badly,



but I will not do that this year unless where I can't help it. I have been obliged to have it all whitewashed and must have it all scrubbed. The playroom built by Father Malbos, is in rather a dangerous state, cannot be fixed, and must be rebuilt anew, if I can only afford it. The kitchen and laundry are perfectly bare - not so much as a plate or knife and fork can be found - and must be completely furnished. You must now have some idea of what a poor state we find things here and of the amount of money we will require. Perhaps this would induce you to send me some money. I will pay it back in proportion as I get it from the Parish together with interest. You need not be the least uneasy about the investment as you may be sure I will not neglect the interests of the Society. I should have told you that there is a good deal of furni-



ture at the Bishop's late residence which I hope to take when the priest leaves, and which will help to furnish the masters' rooms. Also that there are some beds here belonging to the pupils of last year, who all furnished their own beds. But I think it will pay us better to furnish some, so I have ordered 20 for this year, besides what will be necessary for the masters. Now for the parish. It is in a much better state than when I was here two years ago. The flooring has been renewed, a bell-tower partially built, a new bell of 3000 lbs is to be bought by the priest before he leaves, the roof has been fixed a little better than it was, and new furnaces have been put in the church. Thus the church will scarcely require any repairs for 4 or five years, and then it will come out of the pew rent. The same pays the organist and sacristan. All the dues





and perquisites, which are considerable, will come to us. The horse, except one, the cows, the buggies, except one old thing in a wretched condition, and other things of a like nature, all belong to the priest. personally, so we must buy all these, and out of our own funds. I do not know as yet what arrangement will be made with regard to the crops, fruits etc. of this year. I will let you know in my next. I will also give you many other details that I have not room for now. I have issued the Prospectus, with the same terms as in Toronto, that is \$25 dearer than it was here last year. This has caused some grumbling amongst the French Canadians, but every one advised me to put it at that figure. Now you will ask, what are our prospects. I answer candidly. I think they are good. If you except the little dislike that persons generally



have for change, priests and people received us well, and give us every encouragement, both here and in Detroit. The Bishop, however of that place, though he promises to encourage the establishment, would not allow us to use his name as, he said, he did not see why he should, we being in another Diocese. I hope you are sending me an excellent parish priest, as the people here have not yet forgotten the Jesuits. They are really good pious people. See what you can do about the money. I will write you again on the arrival of our colonists. I recommend myself and work to your prayers. Adieu

Denis O'Connor.

I will give you more information in my next; should you wish to know anything particular, mention it. D.O'C.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich

Nov. 1st 1870.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

I received your kind letter a few days ago, and I need not tell you it gave me much pleasure, as it was the first I had from you since you directed me to come to Sandwich. I am delighted to know that your health continues so good, as it is more than ever necessary to enable you to bear up against the many troubles with which you are surrounded. Throughout America, the Catholics are all very much discouraged at the series of defeats which have attended the arms of France. And now they are more so than ever, for two days ago we learned by Telegraph of the Capitulation of Bazame by which France loses the aid of 173,000 men. Every one is asking when is this to cease? Yet, though all are deeply afflicted



at the misfortunes of that noble people, every one recognizes in it the hand of God, Who punishes the people for the faults of the government. Napoleon deserted the Pope, and God was quick in deserting him. The wretched government you now have, calls to its assistance such scoundrels as Garibaldi & Mazzini, and performs the work of the Devil by allowing Belgium to be persecuted and outraged. God's blessing and aid cannot attend such work. I fear that unless there be a change, France will be obliged to drain its cup of bitterness to the very dregs. We pray that Almighty God may, in his mercy, avert any such terrible punishment and that He may protect the good, specially the members of our Community. May France, thoroughly purified by this chastisement of God, rise more glorious than ever!





The Telegraph constantly furnishes us with news, much alas true, and much false; yet we had not learned until we received your letter, of the very hard times now existing in France. Of course we knew, that wherever the victorious Prussians had passed, all was desolation and ruin; yet we did not know that places so far removed from the seat of war, as Aonnonay, were suffering so much. I trust and pray that these things will soon have an end.

Here, thank kind Providence, everything is quiet and prosperous enough. The harvest has been pretty good, the prices are reasonable, and those who are not comfortable have themselves to blame. Many a time did I tell Father Frachon in joking, that there is no such country in the world as Canada, and he wrote to me lately to say that he now believes me.



But I must tell you something about Sandwich. Our school now numbers thirty boarders, and four day-scholars. This will show you that this is a bad situation for a day school. With regard to the number of boarders, you may be glad to know that I am satisfied with it. You know what ill success attended the College so far, so that its reputation is none of the best. Besides people do not know us, and naturally enough are waiting to see what kind of stuff we are made of. I think these things considered, we ought to be satisfied with our attendance. The large majority of our students are from Detroit. So far the Diocese of London has not done much for us; excepting the students from Sandwich, and they are not many, we have only three from the Diocese. The anniversary of the Bishop's consecration will be celebrated in



London on the 10th instant. Most of the priests of the Diocese will be there, and I intend to go, and I will prudently remind them that they ought to do more for us. The Bishop I think must be well disposed towards us, seeing that he was so anxious to have us. He has not yet come to see us. He intended to be here on last Sunday week, but during the week preceding his brother-in-law was killed on the cars, and this prevented him. As far as I know the people of Sandwich are well disposed towards us in the College and in the Parish. We hear of the Jesuits pretty often, and some people would like to meddle a little in our business. I listen to them quietly and then do as I think ought. I do not yet feel that I can put these meddlers in their place, but the time will come.

In the College I am satisfied with the way



things are going. Considering the way things were conducted here last year, (you would wonder if you knew all) I find that the boys are taking to the rule pretty well. I have been obliged to be a little severe a few times; excepting that I have had no trouble with them. I am glad, too, to be able to report favourably of the masters. I have only four classes, two Latin and two English. I did not want to establish too many at first. I can establish them as they will be required. All the Masters have had no experience in teaching, except one who taught for a few months in Toronto. Yet they are all very devoted to their work, and their boys are making a reasonable progress. The masters also study well themselves and I am generally content with the manner in which they observe the Rules.

I see by your letter that you think I have





Kennedy & Foy here. Such is not the case. You ought to know Father Vincent well enough to know that he first looks out for himself. I was not at all satisfied with the way he served me here. In your first letter, accepting Sandwich, you told him to send Father Frachon or Father Chalandard along with me, he was not willing to do so. You intended Mr. Foy for Sandwich and Father Vincent would not let him come, though I asked for him especially, as he is able to teach drawing. Consequently I have no drawing master, though some pupils have asked to learn it. When it was question of sending Father Aboulin here, he never let me know anything about it until he wrote to tell me he was coming. All this did not please me much in the beginning, but now that I see things are going pretty well I am more reconciled. The only thing I complain of now is



that I have too much to do. I have to teach Theology, moral and dogmatic, Philosophy, Catechism on Sundays, to preach every Sunday in English at early Mass, besides performing my duties as Superior and Econome. This last is no small job, as I have to look after the Farm, and the temporal affairs of both the College and Parish. You may ask why I do not get some of the priests to relieve me. So far they have had all they can do, preparing the children for First Communion. Besides Father Faure seems not to care about teaching and Father Aboulin has to teach singing. Every one here who knew Father Faure was astonished that you should send him. So far I have no reason to complain of him, he does his work well in the Parish, though he is unwilling to do any other. He is sometimes very homesick. I think he was disappointed to find



Father Aboulin in possession before him. At least it looks like it. However I should not like you to say anything to him on these matters; it could do no good. I trust that God will give me health and strength to get through my work this year, and that another year you will see that Father Vincent will deal more fairly. I am positive he would not consent to do my work for a week. I am satisfied with the Parish; it is on a good footing; the people are religious, and are content with us. Fathers Aboulin and Faure are very devoted to their work, but somewhat deficient in preaching. Today we had the First Communion of the children. There were about fifty. On last Sunday week Father Bruyere blessed a new bell for the Parish weighing 3100 lbs. It is the largest in the Diocese, and the people are quite proud of it. It gave me a good deal



of trouble as I had to prepare for the ceremony and the raising of it, which was not small matter. But we succeeded without accident. Besides there is over a hundred dollars due on it, and it will not be easy to raise them, as the people are not at all generous. It is very difficult to get the dues & pew rent from many of them. For this reason I fear the Parish will not yield as much as we were led to believe. In my last I told you there was a buggy belonging to the Parish, but it belonged to Father Laurent, and I have been obliged to buy one, as well as harness. My books show that I have spent already nearly \$1200 for necessary repairs & furniture for the College and apputenances. And all the repairs are not yet done, and I can safely say that in the line of furniture I bought only what was absolutely necessary. The Masters are not at all as comfortable as they ought to be. This





will show you how much I need money. But I hope to come out all right. I presume you have heard of the new Seminary in Adjala; it is very provoking. We are all well both masters and students. My best wishes to all the confreres at Annonay. Tell Father Raynaud I am glad he overcame that Prussian. All the confreres here send you their warmest wishes. Wishing you every blessing, but particularly relief from your many troubles, I remain, Very Rev. Dear Superior,

Your devoted confrère

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich

January 24th, 1871.

Very Rev. & very Dear Superior,

You will undoubtedly consider me very negligent of my duty, and I must acknowledge that you have some reason. But as I have been expecting a letter from you for some time, I thought it better to await its arrival before writing to you again. It has not come however, and I presume you would find ault with me did I wait any longer, as I know you will like to have news from here. First, then, I am pleased to be able to tell you that things are going on here about as well as can be expected. The attendance of pupils is not allthat could be expected. We have altogether 45 boys, of whom 38 are boarders. You will see by this that the place is not favourable for a day school. There are,



no doubt, boys enough in the town and neighbourhood, but as the inhabitants are pretty heavily taxed for the Common School, they think they might as well send their children there, particularly, as the F. Canadians are very much attached to the dollars. You will understand by this that a large majority of our boys are from the American side of the river. It has always been my opinion, and is now so more than ever, that our principal support must come from the United States; though I believe too, that Canada will do much more for us than it is now doing. All the boys who are here, as well as their parents seem to be well satisfied with the College, and to take an interest in it. If we can continue this; and I hope we shall, a good name will be given to the place, a thing which has not possessed for a long time, and then we must succeed.



As a general thing, the boys are well conducted, though, of course, among the number there are some to give trouble. We are so near Detroit, from which place most of our boys come, that the great temptation for the boys is to run home. I was very much annoyed by this in the beginning, and was obliged to have recourse to rather severe measures to put a stop to it. Since Christmas we have had no case of it. Did you know the manner in which things were conducted here last year, you would not be surprised to hear that we had some trouble. It would fairly amaze you, did I tell you of some of last year's doings. But "cui bono"? On the whole our boys are exceedingly backward in their studies, as you may know when I tell you that the weakest class is by far the most numerous. This is better for us in one way, as it will give us





plenty of time to provide for higher classes. I wish however that we had a good music master as well as one for drawing. Among the few boys we have here there are 13 learning music. We lose all the income from this, and I assure you it would be a great assistance to us in our poverty. We have no drawing class for want of a Master, but I feel convinced that many would learn. Could you not then so arrange matters so as to send me next year Professors of these branches? I fear that we will not have a great many vocations for the Church among our pupils. I look for these chiefly among the Canadians. You know that the Irish Americans are not much inclined that way, and I find that the French Americans of whom there are many in Detroit are less so. However when God wants vocations He can make them come. So much for the boys. The



Masters give me great satisfaction. They observe the rules well, and are very faithful and devoted to their duty. With one exception the classes are very well taught and orderly. The exception I make is an auxiliary, and does the best he can and though I desire something more, yet his boys do not lose their time. Having to teach their Theology and Philosophy, besides my duties as Superior and Treasurer, I cannot visit the classes as often as I would like. As all my teachers are mere novices at the work I should see them oftener and as I expect some relief next year, I hope to look after them more closely. When Father Faure came I had hopes of getting him to do something in the College. He never refused, but he objected and as he was very much troubled by home-sickness I thought it best to do as I could for this year. He and Father Aboulin are altogether occupied



with the Parish, and certainly they are not idle, for the Parish is very large. I cannot tell you exactly how many souls there are in it, but in my next I will, as Fr. Aboulin is now occupied in taking the census of it. The people are generally good, and therefore give much, though agreeable, work to the priests. Fathers Aboulin and Faure will probably give you news on this head. I always give assistance on Sundays and Holydays. The income from the Parish is large, but it is divided into three parts, the Pastors, the Church's, and the Bishop's. I cannot tell you how much our portion will be. Since we took charge of the Parish, Sept. 20 till today the total revenue of the church from all sources has been \$1180. Of this amount about \$250 is for us. The people are not at all generous, and they are most



backward in paying the dues, the Pastor's share. If they do not pay their pews they are closed and as this is humiliating they pay them up well.

I suppose you receive news regularly from Toronto, and are therefore informed of their troubles there. Poor Abp. Lynch was never remarkable for his good sense, but since his return from Rome, he seems to have parted company with it completely. He has run counter to nearly everybody, and at last the storm has burst upon St. Michael's. They are much annoyed there, as they scarcely know what he finds fault with. I will not enter into any details as I suppose you know as much about it as myself, if not more. I will only say that I am very glad to be removed from these troubles as they affect me very much. Here, thank God, we have nothing of the kind. We get along very well with





our neighbours, and the Bp. is so far away that we do not see much of him. He has been here only once since we came; but as far as I know he is very well disposed towards us. I have also seen the Bp. of Detroit and he received me very kindly. I like very much to have authority on my side, but the fact of the matter is, that it does not make much difference in this country. People judge for themselves here, and if they find that a College does well they will support it. Whether this is a misfortune or not, I will not undertake to say. Thank Providence, we all enjoy good health, except a slight ailing now and again, among the pupils. As for myself, my health is better than usual. It appears the more work I have to do, the better I am. During the Christmas holidays I lost my sister who was a religious. She died of consumption. I have



been long looking for her death, and therefore did not feel the blow so heavily. I have no doubt you will pray for her. I hope that all the confreres, but particularly you are enjoying good health, and I now wish you, what I should have done at the beginning of my letter, viz. that this new year may be one of many during which you will be blessed with every grace and comfort. Mr. McBrady presents you his sincerest regards. My best wishes to the confreres of my acquaintance, and to M. Raynaud. Hoping that you will find time to write to me soon,

I remain, Very Rev. & Very Dear Superior,

Your devoted child

D. O'Connor

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich, May 16, 1871.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

I have allowed your kind letter of Feb. 22nd to run unanswered a long time, and I scarcely know what reason to offer in excuse if it be not that I had no news to communicate to you, and that I have been exceedingly busy.

I think, by what you say in your letter, that either one of your letters, or one of mine, must have been lost, as you were certainly written to twice by me, without my receiving any answer. I as well as the confreres here were much pleased that you were enjoying good health, and that God, in His mercy, spread His protection over our little Community in France. May He grant a continuance of it, now that poor France is in such a miserable condition. In America we were quite prepared for this, and every thinking



man looked upon the continued and astonishing victories of the Prussians, as well as their cruel occupation of French territory, as more honourable and more beneficial to France than would be the state of things which every one felt sure would follow on the departure of external enemies. Though the present state of things, is disgraceful and a source of sorrow for every Frenchman, and every one sympathizing with France, as all Catholics do; yet we all look for good to arise from it, as we now believe that Europe will now understand what Revolution means, and consequently will take means to crush it out. In this continent even a great change of opinion has taken place with regard to these so-called friends of Liberty, and the Protestant press unanimously cries out against their disgraceful conduct.





But I must come to our own affairs. Since my last there has been little or no change in affairs in Sandiwch. There has been no change in the number of our pupils, unless perhaps that we have lost one or two on account of sickness. You will understand from this, that we have not had as many pupils this year as I had reason to hope for in the beginning, but do not suppose that I am discouraged. There were a good many reasons to diminish the number of boys. First, we raised the price, and that always militates against an Institution for some time. Besides the College was taken over too late in the season, and many parents had already determined to send their sons elsewhere. The Bishop, too, was absent from the time of our acceptance until some time after we opened the classes, and though Father Bruyère did all

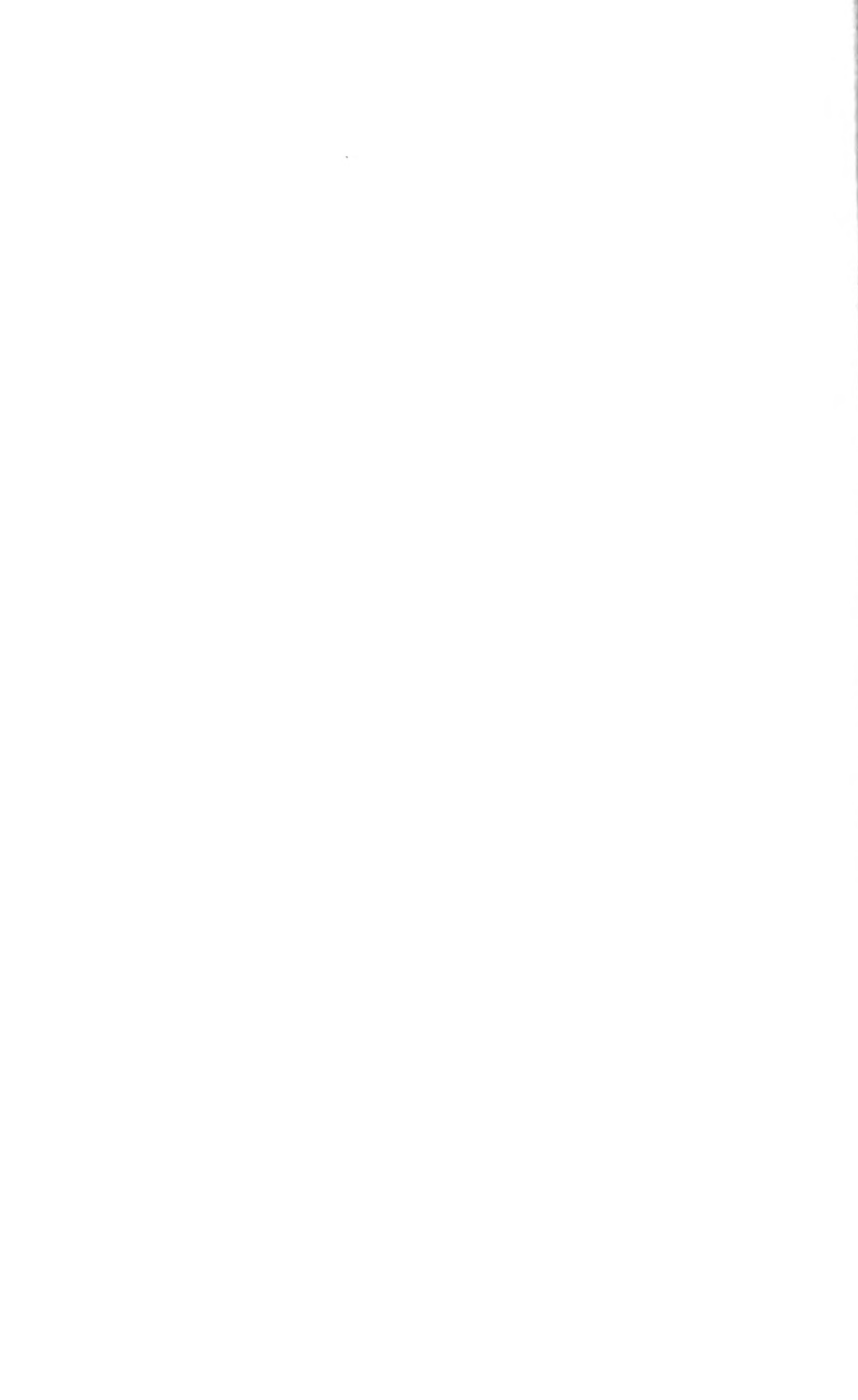


he could for us, yet it was not the same thing as if the Bishop had done it. The consequence is that we have very few from the Diocese. I must say, however, that I look to the United States for our chief support. Though the number of our pupils is rather small, yet I hope to be able to pay off all the current expenses, and perhaps have a little money left. The revenues from the church will help to pay the extraordinary expenses, though not all, I am afraid. It would take me too long to tell you of all the things which I have been obliged to provide for the Parish and the College, which I expected to find here before me. Of course I have not provided everything as yet, nor do I expect to get everything into good shape before three or four years.

The revenues of the Church are not divided



exactly as you say. The pew-rent is for the benefit of the Church; the dues for the priests, as well as marriages and baptisms; but all other perquisites are evenly divided between Church & Pastor. And besides the Bishop gets one tenth of all revenues. Now this takes away a good sum from both. I cannot say how much as I do not know how much the revenues for the year will amount to. It is true that by the agreement between the Bishop and the Community we have a right to the pew-rent for one or more years. But for this year it will not yield us one cent as the debts which were on the church when we came have taken, or will take the whole of it. Besides even if we could have it all, I do not very well see how we could take it; for if it should be known by the people, it would utterly destroy us in their opinion. I do not write



these things to you that you may take any action with the Bishop. I merely tell it you for your own information, and you will oblige me by doing or saying nothing about it. I have never yet spoken to the Bishop about it, but I intend to do so when the proper time comes. This will all make you understand that I have had no easy time of it. this year to raise money for all demands. I had hopes to have some help from you, but I feel that your circumstances would not permit it. Thank God, notwithstanding all my difficulties, I hope to have an even balance at least at the end of the twelve months. But now some provision must be made for next year. Our chapel, study hall, and dining room are quite unfitted for the objects for which they are intended. A new wing to the building would meet all these difficulties. But I cannot expect





you to grant such permission, as you can give no help, and as it would not be prudent to do so before we are assured of success here. What I propose doing then, with your permission, is this. I will leave the chapel and dining room as they are at present as I consider that the study hall is the most necessary, as it has the greatest influence on the health of the pupils. When M. Malbos was here he built a play-room, about 60 x 25. As it has not been properly cared for, it is now unfit for use, and I even consider it dangerous. I intend to rebuild it solidly, and divide it by a moveable partition in two equal parts, one for a study hall, and the other for a playroom. I have not had the cost estimated, but I think that \$400 or \$500 ought to cover all expenses. Of course I will build in wood. I would then divide the present



study hall into two classrooms of which I expect we will have need next year. Please write at once, and give the necessary permission. I think that this improvement is absolutely required, and you will easily understand that it will conduce much to the cleanliness and quiet of the House. There are many other little improvements that must be made but as they will be durable I suppose you will not have any objection to them. They are such as providing a wardrobe, shoeroom and ordinary repairs. I hope that you will send me some help for next year. I expect Mr. Grand as study-master and also some one to teach drawing and music. Music is now taught by a person from outside; so that I am not so particular about that. I expect and hope that they will give me some one from Toronto to take a portion of my work in the College. I



would not like to undertake another year all I have done this. You say in your letter that you wish me to send in September a full account of receipts and expenditures for the 12 mos. I have never done such a thing before, and if you would give me some idea as to how it is to be done, or send me a formual to fill up it will make it more easy for me, and more intelligible for you. I was a little surprised to learn that Fr. Raynaud had returned to his old post. I am very glad to hear that he did so. I am much gratified at his kind remembrance of me, and in return I wish him everything that is best. Fathers Faure and Aboulin and the other confreres wish to be remembered to you. With compliments to confreres and best wishes to yourself, I remain

V. Rev. & Dear Superior, Your devoted Son  
Denis O'Connor.  
(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich, Sept. 15th, 1871.

Very Rev. & Very Dear Superior,

I have been very slow in answering your last kind letter, but I hope you will not attribute it to negligence, as I have been very much occupied since I received it. Your letter was a source of pleasure to us all, when we learned that God in His Goodness has so watched over our little Community. May He always accord to us the same protection.

I will now answer your letter in detail. I did not speak to the Bishop about the Concordat as you advised me to do. I thought it would be perfectly useless, as he is engaged in building a residence which will cost him \$20,000. Besides I find that my accounts are in a pretty good state and that by careful management I will be able to do without the money from the church for





this year. I shall not fail to take this money here-after and perhaps at a time when I will have more need of it than now. With regard to the Hall for Recreation, I found it impossible to do as you advised, and Mr. Vincent was quite of my opinion. What I have done is this: I have had a hall built, 70 x 25 feet, with a porch connecting with the College. It is solidly built upon cedar posts three feet in the ground so the frost cannot injure or displace them. The whole building is in wood. Outside the boards are perpendicular, closely joined, and with batons over the joinings. Inside the boards are horizontal, and tongued and grooved so that no air can pass through. The whole is planed, and painted, outside a brown colour with drab facings, and inside of a light drab color. The main building is divided in the



centre by a moveable partition which gives us two halls of 35 x 25 feet. One serves for the study hall, the other for a hall for recreation. At the end of the year by removing the partition which is so arranged that any one can take it down or put it up in an hour, we will have a fine hall for the Exhibition. I forgot to state that the ceiling inside is lightly rounded, which improves the appearance very much, and makes the hall more airy as by that arrangement we gain two feet in the height inside. The distance between the floor and the ceiling is 14 feet. The cost of the whole as far as I can now judge (for I have not all the bills in yet) will be about \$700. The greater portion of this is already paid, and I have cash enough in hand to pay the rest; so I shall not be obliged to call upon you for money, though I am exceedingly



obliged for your kind offer. I think you need not fear that what I have done will have the same fate as the Ball-alley in Toronto; for I am convinced that with care this hall will last 30 or 40 years, and by that time I suppose whoever will be here, will be able to put up something better. I hope you will find that I have done well in not complying with your wishes. I have divided the old study hall into two classrooms, both of which we need as I have two classes more this year than last. I have been obliged to make a great many other reparations in the house, but I am very careful to do nothing which will not be lasting. Besides I always keep within my means and incur no debts that I am not able to meet. I except of course what I got from Mr. Vincent when I came here, and \$500 that I afterwards borrowed on the



authority of the Bishop, with the approval of Father Vincent. But you will understand all this much better when I send you my account for the year. I have not been able to make them out yet, but I hope to be able to send them in two or three weeks. The Bishop and the Archbishop of Toronto have both been here lately, the former remained nearly two weeks, and the latter a week. They were here just at the time that the boys returned from vacation, and consequently I have been exceedingly busy, as none of those with me here have had any experience either in attending to the business of the house, or in procuring what would be necessary for such visitors. The Bishop always expresses his satisfaction at the manner in which the College is conducted, and appears to be very friendly to us.





All the confreres whom you sent from France are to be with me. Messrs. Vernède and Walsh are here more than two weeks and appear to be quite contented and at home. Mr. Cushing went home to see his parents and has not yet come nor even written to me. I find his conduct very strange, and it is putting us to much trouble as his absence prevents me from organizing the classes properly. I have been expecting him every day for the last ten days, but he does not come. Please tell Father Moloney that his nephew is with me, and that I will answer his letter in a short time. Tell Father Monot that I am much obliged for the copy of his work. But "entre nous" we all find it strange here that he should have given himself all his titles, except that of Basilian.

We have now 35 boarders and 11 day-scholars,



which I find to be pretty fair after the second week in this country. They appear to be a nicer class of boys than those of last year. Messrs. Faure, Aboulin, McBrady & Quinlan are with me again this year. Father Faure is not very strong but he works very faithfully and seems to be quite contented. The others are well and doing well. I am sorry that Mr. Vernède was not ordained before he left France, but I suppose you send us immediately the necessary permission. I have spoken to the Bishop, and he will ordain him as soon as possible. I suppose you are hurrying up as much as possible the young man you are to send me for Music and Drawing. Let him perfect himself this year and next year he will have two fine classes here. I wish I had good teachers for these branches now. I regret very much to hear that the people of Prâdes have



acted so ungratefully towards the Community and Father Raynaud. It must be a great source of trouble to the latter, and I am very sorry that his days should be in any way embittered. Present to him my most affectionate regards. Mr. Vernède tells me that your health has not been very good for some time. I am sorry that such is the case and I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in telling you to take every precaution to preserve your health. You know that the Canadian confreres claim you as their own, and would consider anything that would befall you as affecting themselves personally. My own health has been very good of late. It appears the more I have to do, the better I am. But you must be tired of my long letter, so I will conclude by sending you my best wishes to the confreres in France, and by beseeching God to shower his choicest



blessings on yourself.

Hoping that you will find time to answer me  
soon, I am Very Rev. & very Dear Superior

Your affectionate & obedient child

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)





Assumption College.

Sandwich, Sept. 27/71.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

A few days ago I learned from Mr. Vernède that he had brought no dimissorial letters with him. Before I was aware of this I wrote to the Bishop concerning his ordination, and His Lordship answered that he would ordain him as soon as possible, unless the late rescript from Rome be so strict as to leave no mode of escape, and he asks a few days to consider the matter. But now of course he cannot be ordained until you send his dimissorial letters from France.

I suppose you will soon receive from Rome the necessary permission for these ordinations, as it is very discouraging to our young men to be kept waiting, so long, seeing that their companions who go on the missions are ordained



two or three years in advance of them. I am very anxious that Mr. Vernède would be ordained as soon as possible as he could not only be of great use to us, but would even be of great relief to some of us. I hope then you will answer my letter as soon as possible, and send the necessary permission if you have it, if not; at least the dismissorial letters as I am sure the Bishop will ordain if there be any possibility of so doing. There is nothing new since I wrote last. Everything goes on quietly and we are all, thank God, in health. Hoping that you enjoy the same blessing, I remain Very Rev. Dear Superior

Yours very affectionately

DEnis O'Conn<sup>o</sup>r.

P.S. Cushing came about a week ago.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich, Nov. 10th, 1871.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

I send you, at last, a statement of the receipts and expenses of this College up to the first of September of this year. I have delayed much in sending it, but it was not altogether my fault. I wished also to include in it a statement of the expenses incurred for the new study hall, though a good part of the money was paid after the 1st of Sept. The lumber-merchant did not furnish me with quite so good a quality of lumber as he had agreed, and I did not wish to pay him in full before having a settlement with him. As he was very often absent, I only obtained this settlement very lately. Hence my delay in sending you the statement, and I trust you will find my reason sufficient.

I must now enter into an explanation of some



items of the statement, that you may understand it the better. First on the side of expenses. Under the head of "Groceries & Provisions" are included all the groceries used, as well as Flour, Fish, Potatoes and other vegetables that I was obliged to buy, and also all the "Coal oil" used for lighting the house. Also about ninety (\$90) dollars worth of table-ware is included in the same, as the merchant who furnished the groceries furnished also the dishes. I think I told you before that there was nothing of that kind here when I came. Under the head of "Furniture and Repairs" you will find a pretty heavy account, but you will find how necessary it was when I tell you that I will require to spend as much more this year, and also the next, before the College and surroundings will be in decent repair, and sufficiently furnished. You





will also find that my expenses for the "stable" are great, but you will understand them when I tell you I have had to buy two cows, one horse, all the harness, a buggy, in fact everything that was required. In my statement I do not enter into any detailed account of the expenses for the church, as I suppose you will not require it, as the church furnished money for its own support. The expenses under the head of Pastor's a/c consist chiefly of "Intentions" paid to our confreres for Masses which they sung. The Mason's charges for work on the "new study hall" are small for the reason that he had only a chimney to build, as all the rest of the building is of wood.

Now we come to the "Receipts". By receipts from students I mean moneys received from them for all purposes; all the ordinary College



expenses, as well as for Music, and the doctor's fees. Immediately under the same receipts I have put what was due by the boys up to the 1st of September, that you might see the total revenues from this source. Most of what was then due has been already paid. The first item of "Sundries" receipts is cash for the Pastoral retreat which took place in the College during the vacation. The second is cash received for some animals and articles of which I had no need. The third is "Interest" paid by the Bank in which I place any money which I do not require immediately. The rate of interest is 5% payable monthly. The "Discount" is what was made by changing Canadian bills into American silver in which all the business is done in this quarter. The "Deposits" is money left in my hands for safe-keeping, payable at call. The Receipts on



the church a/c arise from the pews and half the perquisites; on the Pastor's a/c the dues and half the perquisites; on the Bishop's a/c dispensations, Propagation of the Faith, and also two hundred (\$200) dollars paid to me for him. The "Loans" as you will see are from St. Michael's College, Toronto, without interest, and Mr. A. Janisse, a parishioner at 6%.

At last we come to "Debts" of the present time; first of course stand the two "Loans" above mentioned. Next is what I owe the Bishop on his own a/c, and also the Cathedraticum on the church a/c, and the cathedraticum on the pastor's a/c. The Bishop has been kind enough to leave all this money in my hands long after the usual time for paying it, so that I might not be put to inconvenience by the want of money. I do not know how soon he may call for it. The



Balance due the church is what remains after all the expenses of the church have been paid, as well as the cathedraticum to the Bishop. Last of all are the Deposits. To meet these debts there is the cash in hand and what is due by the boys, leaving a Balance against me of \$583.93 I have no great fears but that I shall be able to pay this balance this year, as also to meet all my other expenses. You must now be tired of this, as I am; but I hope you will be satisfied with my accounts. I can safely say in my favour, that I have done my best, and have managed as economically as I know how.

We are all in first rate health, both masters and pupils, and things are going pretty well. We have 40 boarders and 10 day pupils, and I expect four mor boarders. I thought last year that we would have more boys this year than we





have; but I suppose we must be content to go slowly. The confreres you sent from France are in first rate health. Mr. Vernède makes a very good study master. He is sometimes quite homesick. I wish you would provide for his ordination as soon as possible. Mr. Cushin makes a very good teacher, and Mr. Walsh a very bad one. He has not control over the boys, and they therefore lose their time and create much disturbance. He has never made any regular classes, so he knows nothing about teaching one. It would have been better to have given him a couple of years course in some College before sending him. I am afraid that I will be obliged to try and replace him. Father Faure seems quite contented this year, and he and Father Aboulin are doing very well in the Parish. I had a letter lately from Father Vincent in which he states that His



Grace is again in good humour, and easily accords "Exeats" to the young men who require them. I suppose it will not be very long until something will turn up to make us appear like something to be got rid of. Our Bishop seems to be always very well disposed towards us. God grant that it may continue. I believe that in Toronto they have begun the foundations of the new wing. I think they are making a very serious mistake in placing the public hall at the top of the building. I gave my reasons to Mr. Vincent but he has not found them good, so I suppose he finds it better to follow his plan. They have a good attendance of students at the College. Louisville is growing constantly worse, so I suppose our confreres will leave after this year. I have lately heard on several occasions that the Bishop of Detroit wishes to establish an Externat



in the city, but as far as I can learn, he can find nobody to take it, though he offers very good chances. If one were established it would interfere some with us, but I think not so much as might be supposed. It is now a long time since I heard from you. I would be much pleased if you could find time to write soon. All the confreres wish to be remembered to you particularly. Remember me kindly to the confreres and to Mr. Raynaud. Hoping that you constantly enjoy good health, and that everything is going to your satisfaction.

I remain, Very Rev. Dear Superior,

Your affectionate son,

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College, Sandwich, Jan. 22nd, 1872.

Very Rev. Dear Superior,

Your letter was received some days ago, and we were all very much pleased to learn that you were all so well, and that the Community was so prosperous. For my part, I was particularly gratified to know that you are so content with my management of things in this place. I hope I may always be able to give you the same satisfaction. No one here was very sorry to hear that you are to leave Privas. We regret, of course, that it should be under such circumstances but we believe that more good can be done elsewhere by the same number of men. I was a little surprised that you should say you were not surprised that Mr. Walsh should give so little satisfaction. It seems a little singular, that, knowing this, you should have sent him here,





where we have to make a good name for ourselves under the very greatest difficulties. I have found Mr. Walsh utterly incapable in the management of boys. He did not know anything about teaching, as he never made any regular classes; and could keep no order at all. His boys did just what they pleased, and consequently lost their time. After giving him about two months' trial, I was obliged to remove him from his class, and he is at present in Louisville as infirmarian. He and another, an auxiliary sent us by the Bishop, have done us a great deal of harm this year. The disorder which they allowed, spread to the other boys, who gave very much trouble to the masters. Things are not yet nearly so orderly as I would like, though I expelled two boys, that I might bring the others to a sense of their duty. I am sorry to have to



give you such a report. It is only right to say that the American boys, of whom there are a good many, are pretty hard to manage. But still if these masters had been exact to enforce the rule we would not have had near so much trouble.

At present we have 42 boarders of whom two are theologians. You will see by this that we have not as many as I anticipated in the last letter I wrote to you. I attribute this in a great measure to the condition in which the House and the surroundings are. They appear very dilapidated, and have not much the air of comfort, after which the Americans seek so much. It would be well to improve if we could, but there is no encouragement to make expenses unless we have a larger number of boys to be able to pay these expenses. I suppose we must only



take patience.

The health in the College has been excellent this year. I have not yet been obliged to make use of the infirmary. Just now some of the boys have colds, but nothing of any account. In the Parish there are pretty many cases of Typhoid Fever, and some smallpox. But I trust we shall not be visited by them here. Father Faure has not been very well since Christmas. His old complaint, the Gravel, troubles him. But he is not so bad as to be unable to attend to his work. All the other confreres are very well. I do not notice that Mr. Vernède is too familiar with any of the boys, though I find him sometimes too "coulant". He is sometimes very lonesome, and I think his not getting orders has a good deal to do with it. We have had an exceedingly mild winter so far, except a few days



around Christmas; but even then it was not near so cold as other years. I trust that we will not have to pay up for it during April and May.

Speaking of winter, reminds me of a matter on which I want your advice, and permission if you think it well to give it. I find that wood is becoming constantly dearer. This year I pay 50 ¢ per cord more than last year. Now as we use about 100 cords per year it is worth while to adopt some plan whereby we can have wood cheaper. Here is what I propose. At 6 or 7 miles from here I can buy wood-land at from \$16 to \$20 per acre. I think it would be well to buy 50 or 100 acres of good land; then we will have only to pay for the chopping of the wood, as I have my own horses to draw it, and when the wood is chopped the land will sell for more than we will pay for it now. I am sure it would





be a good speculation to buy up a gooddeal of wood-land now, for in a few years wood will be very dear. To give you an instance; only a few months ago my father sold the wood off 40 acres of land for \$3160.00 Those who bought it will take off the wood at their own expense and then my father has the land still. But you will ask me how I will pay for this land. I think that at the end of this scholastic year, I will have enough money in hand to pay for 50 acres. But of course if I buy the land I will be obliged to neglect other things as necessary as wood. Still I think that if you grant me permission I will buy the land. When I was building the new study-hall you offered to advance me some money. If you could do so now, it would come a propos. If you wish to invest money, I know of no better investment. Fathers



Vincent and Ferguson are of my opinion. I hope then that you will write to me immediately, and let me know what I am to do, and also what you will do for me.

The Bishop came here on Friday last. He was very glad to have news of you, and he charged me to assure you of his affection and esteem for you. He is always very kind to us, and appears to be very well disposed to us; though I must say that we have not so many students from the Diocese as I think we might have. I do not know if the fault be the Bishop's. His Lordship appears to be very well pleased with the manner in which both the College and the Parish are administered. No Bishop has been appointed as yet for Cleveland, but the Bishop has told me that a certain Father Doherty of Baltimore is to be appointed soon. Perhaps then



things in Louisville will take a turn for the better; or at least something definite will be known. I believe that the College is doing a little better. There are now 32 boarders. In Toronto everything is going well except with the Bishop who is always of the same disposition. That will have an end like everything else, but it requires much patience.

I am very glad to know that Père Raynaud always thinks so kindly of me. Tell him that I would write to him, were it not that I have no news to give him besides those I give you. Give him my best wishes for his welfare, as also to the other confreres of my acquaintance. I am delighted to hear that Father Malbos' College is prospering. Father Rauc made an unlucky change. All the confreres here are anxious to know how Fr. Moloney's mission will succeed.



Please let us know something about it when you write. All the confreres of this house send you their best wishes for the new year. For my own part I pray that God may shower on you His choicest blessings, and preserve you long to us.

Father Vincent has sent us your circular.

I remain, Very Rev. Dear Superior,

Your devoted confrere & child

Denis O'Connor.

P.S. Please write immediately and tell me what to do about the wood.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)





Assumption College, Sandwich, May 7th, 1872.

Rev. Dear Superior,

Your two letters have been received and I am not surprised that you should find that I have been long in aswering the first. But it is not altogether my fault. I did not wish to buy any land without seeing it first, and the winter has been so long and severe, that I could not do so conveniently till last week. I have now decided to buy a farm of 108 acres which has been offered to me for one thousand (\$1000) dollars. None of it is cleared and the wood upon it is very heavy and will average 50 cords to the acre, and besides I will be able to sell a good deal of the heaviest to make lumber. The wood is not of the best kind, but is like all the wood in these parts. It is my conviction that I have made a good bargain. The land



is between five and six miles from the College. It is my intention to pay cash for it, and I have money enough in the Bank to do so immediately. Perhaps you will conclude from this that I do not want any from you. I think I can do without it if it puts you to any inconvenience to send it, but still I wish you could send me some. About half of the money that I have in the Bank at present belongs to the church, though of course I may use it. It will take a good deal of the other half to pay masters and servants, and besides I must do a great deal of fencing this year, and I expect to make a good many necessary reparations in the College. Without your money I will be very much cramped, so I would like you to send it. I would not be so much in need of it, were it not that Mr. Vincent sent for the money he lent me, when I



came here first, and I have paid him. I would like you to send me at least 6000 francs as here the franc is only worth 18 1/3 cents. I shall endeavour to pay you the interest regularly though I do not find that Annonay acts as generously to this College as it did to St. Michael's. Yet I shall be very thankful for the loan. Next year I shall be obliged to put a tower and spire on our church and to build a sanctuary, as well as make other reparations which I expect to cost altogether \$10,000, that is to do them well. I would have done something this year, but there were so many fires last summer all over the country, that building materials and labour are now at a very high figure, and I thought it better to wait another year. The revenues of the church are such that I am sure to be able to pay all the debt in from



seven to ten years. I have been thinking lately that you would do well to send some of your funds to this country for investment. If we may believe the daily reports things are in a very unsettled condition in France, and likely to become more so. For this reason I think you would do well to send some of your funds out of that country. If you would lend any for the purpose above-mentioned I would see that your loan would be properly secured and your interest paid regularly. Let me know in your next letter what you think of it. If you could lend me some, it would save me a great deal of trouble looking for it elsewhere. I am very glad that you have at length sent Mr. Vernède's papers, as the other priests have almost too much to do, and he will be a great help to us. I will have him ordained at the end of this month when the Bishop





is to come here to ordain some of his own subjects and to give a retreat to our boys. Mr. Vernède has not been well for about a month. He has suffered from inflammatory rheumatism. He is now able to be around again, though he is not yet perfectly well. As soon as the baths of the Sulphur Springs, here in town, will be opened, I shall send him there I am sure they will do him good. Father Faure also is not well. Immediately after Easter he caught the smallpox attending a patient in a neighbouring parish. He had it under a very mild form, but was obliged to keep his room for three weeks. He is now at work again, but his old complaint, the gravel, troubles him very much. I fear he will never be very strong, and for that reason I am anxious to have Mr. Vernède ordained. The rest of us are very well, though



some of the boys are at present suffering from the mumps. There has been a great deal of sickness in the parish this year. You may judge how much there was, when I tell you that we have had a funeral every third day, on an average since New Years. Small Pox is pretty prevalent in these parts, but, thank Providence, there is very little of it in our parish. It is very virulent<sup>ly</sup> this year, and has proved fatal in most cases. I fear very much that we will have a sickly summer. The winter has been much longer and more severe than usual. In fact we can scarcely say that we are yet in Spring. I expect we shall enter immediately in summer, and, of course, this sudden transition will produce sickness.

At the beginning of last week five of our confreres of Toronto were ordained priests and



one subdeacon. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Walsh in London. His Grace of Toronto could not in conscience ordain our young men. Well, I suppose we may say that some people have queer consciences. You do not know some whom His Grace has ordained; if you did you would be surprised that he should be so scrupulous about our confreres. I would not like to write all I think on this matter, as I am afraid you would scold me in your next letter. Our Bishop does not treat us in this way; he always manifest the greatest friendship, and is always ready to do anything which will please or benefit us. I suppose, however, that our time of trial must come.

I was thinking much about you yesterday. It recalled to my mind many pleasant days we spent in Toronto on St. John's day. I do not suppose



we shall ever spend another of your feast days together, though I should very much desire it. Yet, whenever the day will come round, and I hope you may spend many of them, it shall bring back pleasures of by-gone days. Such of us as had the pleasure of spending the day with you formerly, will not fail to implore Almighty God to pour out upon you his choicest blessings.

In your letter you say that it is probable that you will take another College this year. I hope you will excuse me if I say, that it is the opinion of most of the confreres here, that the Community takes too many Colleges and does not pay sufficient attention to the mental formation of its members. Is it not now time to put the scholasticate on a good footing? so that the members may receive a thorough training before taking on themselves the training of





others. All over the world the ablest men are engaged in teaching, and unless we prepare our men to cope properly with others we must very soon go to the wall. Here in America we feel this very much. We all do the best we can, but we cannot be said to be learned or educated men. For this reason we think more ought to be made of the Scholasticate at home.

Tell good Father Raynaud that I am delighted at his kind souvenir of me, and that I always cherish for him the strongest feelings of affection and gratitude. If I do not write to him it is because I generally give you all the news worth telling, and I know you communicate it to him. To all the confreres also, give my most affectionate regards. The priests and confreres here wish you many happy returns of your Feast and beg me to assure you of their love and esteem.



I hope an answer to this letter will be sent as early as possible.

Good bye, Rev. Dear Superior and believe me ever

Your affectionate and devoted child

Denis O'Connor.

P.S. I suppose Fr. Hours has informed you that the new Bp. of Cleveland has been consecrated. I believe Fr. Vincent is going there soon, to try to make some arrangement about the College. I hope he will not be so soft as he was last time. D.O'C.

N.B. We have always to pay over again for your letters, though you prepay them. You will do well to see if the tariff on letters is not changed.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College,

Sandwich, Jan. 13/'73.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

I received your letter already some time ago, and I should not have delayed so long in answering it, particularly as I should have wished you the "Bonne Année" before now. I am pleased that you should have found my accounts satisfactory, as nothing can please me more than to have your approval for my administration.

You must certainly have misunderstood my letter, as you seemed to convey by your letter that I wished to run into debt to the extent of \$80,000 or thereabouts. Now nothing was farther from my intention. My desire would be to build a College at an expense of say \$20,000 or \$30,000 for the present, and afterwards to add to it if we found it necessary. However I



will say nothing more about it for the present as it does not meet with your approval; though you may judge from the two statements of accounts I have made you, of the great expense of putting & keeping the present building in repair. And if I mistake not next year's expenses for this purpose will be greater than any year yet. And notwithstanding, this, our College will still rank amongst the lowest class of College.

Things are progressing about as usual here. The number of our pupils has not increased much. We have lost a great many since the beginning of the year. The boys here are very independent and my Masters being all young, are somewhat too hasty and sometimes permit themselves to strike the boys who are sure that their parents will take their part. This has given me a great deal of trouble, and though I have frequently





reminded the Masters of the rule which forbids striking, it has been so far without effect. Perhaps a word from you would produce some good. Though the health of the boys has been usually good, yet two of them have died during the last quarter, both of Typhoid Fever, one here, the other at home during the Christmas Holidays. The Masters are all well except Fr. Faure who always suffers more or less from stricture in the urinal organs. I do not think he will ever get well. The Bishop and Fr. Bruyère are always well and always well disposed towards us. This leads me to speak of affairs in Toronto, which as you know are far from being in a satisfactory state. The removal of Father Ferguson has not pacified His Grace. He now wishes to get rid of Father Vincent. Now, it seems to me that we have endured these annoyances long enough. The



time of passive patience is passed, and now it is time to defend ourselves. My honest conviction is that you should appeal to Rome. It is useless for me to enter into details. You know the whole history. I am only sorry that I cannot express to you as strongly as I feel it, that there is no other course open to us than to defend ourselves. I have heard that in your last letter to Fr. Vincent you seemed to convey an intention of leaving Toronto altogether. Now I hope that you will not be displeased if I tell you plainly that I would consider such a step as the height of folly. It would destroy our prospects in this country, it would take from us our only foothold, and besides it would be very unfair to us who have joined the Community here expecting to have a house in Toronto. When we joined the Community



we expected protection and not a protection of the kind you seem to offer. Bishop Lynch will not last always, and have we not recourse to Rome? I hope you will see the necessity of such an appeal and that soon, as we have suffered enough. To come to more agreeable topics, all the confreres unite with me in wishing you a thrice happy New Year with the prayer that it may be the forerunner of many others.

I remain, Very Rev. Dear Superior

Yours most affectionately

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin,

Superior - Collège d'Annonay.

Assumption College, Canada, Sandwich, Oct 16/73.

Very Rev. Dear Superior:

It is a very long time since I have heard from you and a very long time since I have written to you. I would have written to you before, had I anything very special to tell you. But now that we have commenced another scholastic year, I am sure that you are anxious to know how we are doing. We are doing very well. We have now 66 boarders and 10 externs. We closed last year with 47 boarders, so you may see that we have had a considerable increase. Many of our boys are here for the first time, but on the whole I find them to be a good class of boys. Like last year, most of them are in the commerical course, two out of three. This





increase in our numbers has put us to no little inconvenience. I told you before that our College is not large and is badly laid out. The consequence is that we have been obliged to send the boys to Mass in two divisions, as the chapel is too small for all. We were also obliged to give them all the dining room to themselves and to take a classroom as a dining room for the Masters. Some of the Masters also are obliged to teach class in their own rooms. Some of these arrangements have inconveniences and will scarcely meet with your approval; but I assure you that they are unavoidable. You will naturally ask how many more boarders I will take. With the present arrangements we can accommodate 75, though they would be somewhat crowded. I would not be surprised if we reached that figure this year, though it



is quite possible that we will not. But should we do so what will we do for next year. Here is what I would propose; to leave things as they are for another year until our success will be assured and then to build a new College altogether. I know you will not approve of this. But I simply express the opinion of all who see the present building. Nothing good can be made out of it. We have lost many pupils on account of the miserable appearance of the present building. I am convinced that we could easily have 150 boarders if we had a respectable building. You know as well as I do how much importance the American people attach to the building. I am also convinced that this is a better position for a College than Toronto. All our boys here are from the neighbourhood and from Detroit; whereas in Toronto many of their



boys come from a distance. Here we could have both with a good building. Besides Catholics are much more numerous in these parts than around Toronto. There are 14,000 in this County alone. When you write let me know what you think on this matter. You may ask, did we gain much by closing Louisville. We have just three boys who were there last year.

You are aware long since that the Noviciate is now in Sandwich. The Bishop was kind enough to allow us his residence for that purpose. Father Hours is Master and has four novices. I believe it is doing well. Father Vincent would not allow me anything for the extra expenses I had to incur for this purpose; and they are considerable. He also condemned me to pay the debts of Father Hours at Louisville. I have already paid \$450 and probably I will have to

.



pay as much more. It is true I have nearly the value of my money in furniture, but the most of it is furniture I did not much need.

I suppose you know that Father Vincent has not paid me the interest he owes me. He simply paid me the money you lent me to buy woodland with. I therefore only owe you this money with its interest. But I hope you will give the interest, and perhaps the principal for the Noviciate, as Father Vincent will give me nothing.

I should have sent you my annual "compte rendu" before this time; but the truth is, I have not had time to make it out. I shall send it in a couple of weeks.

Father Ferguson is here this year; you may be sure I am very glad to have him. I have also Messrs. Vernede, Grand & McBrady. Fathers Faure and Aboulin are always in charge of the Church.





The former is never very well and will probably be never so. All the others, Masters, Novices and pupils are in good health.

Father Vincent will have written to you that the Bp. of Hamilton is dead. He was buried on last Tuesday. This is a very great loss for us as he was one of our warmest friends. The priests of the Diocese petitioned to have Father Heenan appointed as successor. I sincerely hope he may, as he is a most worthy man, and is very fond of our Community. You may chide me for not being more confident in God; but it is well to have God's friends on our side also. Bishop Walsh is always kind and firendly to us. This is quite a comfort to us.

The Archbishop is always the same. He gives the Community at Toronto no peace. He is to start for Rome in a few days, and it is very



probable that he will enter serious complaints against the Community. Here we would be all glad, did he do so. Things are in a bad condition. There is no charity on either side, and most of the young men know all about this miserable business. They talk and criticize and the consequence is that they come to disrespect authority. The whole business is producing so bad an effect that I think it is high time that you would have the matter settled one way or the other. You may think that a little annoyance does no harm, but in this case the annoyance is so long that it is producing the worst effect in the Community. We all hope you will take some action in the matter, and we all think there is no way of settling it except by going to Rome. All other kinds of settlement have been tried, and all without effect.



Since I commenced to write my letter we have received three boarders more. If this keeps on we will soon have to refuse any more. Please do not forget to tell me what you will advise us to do about this building. I have heard nothing new concerning Chatham. I think the Bishop is always of the same mind. As far as I have been able to find out the Catholic populatio of Chatham is about 3500. Give my best wishes to all the confreres of my acquaintance and do not forget the good Père Raynaud for whom I always preserve the warmest feelings of love and gratitude.

I and all my confreres, V. Rev. Dear Superior, wish you health and strength and every other blessing. I remain, Dear Superior

Yours most affectionately

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College

Sandwich, Nov. 12/'73.

Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin Supr.

Collège d'Annonay.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

I send you at last a statement of accounts for the scholastic year of 1872-73. I should have sent it long since but I have been so very busy I could not possibly do so.

I hope you will find my accounts satisfactory. You will see that I am not laying by much money but this is due to the very bad state of repair in which we found the College and everything around it. This you can see from the large sum spent for furniture and repairs. Yet I can assure you I made no unnecessary expense. The large increase in the number of our boys this year, and the Novitiate will cause





heavy expenses for this year, so that I have fears to find myself much in debt at the end of the present scholastic year.

You will see that I owe a good deal and am owed a good deal. I hope to receive all that is due to me, or at least nearly all. I put the money loaned me by Annonay amongst the receipts as it was during this last year I received it from Father Vincent. Our share in the church receipts is larger than usual, owing to the perquisites having been more than other years. You will also find that the share of the church is unusually high. About \$2000 of it is from extraordinary sources such as Bazaar, Picnic, and loans. I do not know if anything else requires explanation. I will willingly give you any further information. I have nothing new to tell you since my last letter.



We have now seventy-one boarders and expect more, though we cannot accommodate many more. This will show you the necessity of answering my last letter on this point.

All, boys and Masters and Novices enjoy the best of health, and I am generally well pleased with all. If the year will go on as it has commenced we will have every reason to bless God.

The Bishop will be here on next Sunday on which day Messrs McBrady and Grand will be promoted to subdeaconship. I hope to have them ordained priests during the course of the year. Our Novitiate has diminished by one, Mr. Gorman. I suppose Father Vincent told you the reason. He is now teaching here. He is doing well as a teacher. The other Novices are doing well, and Father Hours does his work very well.

I suppose you have received Father Ferguson's



documents before this. I have no doubt you find them long as some of us did; but what is worse, you found them far from edifying. We all hope that now at last something will be done to end these ugly disputes. Did His Grace call upon you?

We have some hopes that Father Heenan will be appointed the successor of the good Bp. Farrell; but we are afraid he is not liked by His Grace.

With most dutiful wishes, I remain Dear Superior,

Yours very affectionately and respectfully,

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College,

Sandwich, Sept. 16/74.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior.

No doubt you find that I am very careless about writing to you. But as I had nothing of any importance to communicate during vacation, I thought it better to wait until our school had got into running order. Thank God, everything is going on very well. I wrote to you a year ago that we would open this year with 75 boarders. My anticipations have been more than realized though the times are very hard, money being very scarce. We have now 80 boarders and 15 day-scholars. I still expect quite a few boarders and I really do not know what to do with them. Our dining room is overcrowded though we no longer take our meals with the pupils. Our dormitories are too full and besides we have some





boys sleeping in other rooms. We were obliged to let part of the playroom into the study room and to make a classroom of the rest, so that we are without a playroom. I shall be obliged to build some kind of a shed for winter. We have this year 4 Latin and 4 Commercial classes and we do not find that it is too many. Two of the classes are taught in Masters' private quarters. Of course you will say that this ought not to be done. But what can I do? I write to you chiefly to know what you advise us to do. I think that the present state of things proves that this College has succeeded and will succeed. I as well as all the confreres here, are convinced that it is a better place for a College than Toronto. We are liked in our own Diocese and the Bishop and priests of Detroit are now very favorable to us, though in the beginning they



were rather doubtful of us, on account of past experience. They are now very friendly to us and help us as much as the priests of this diocese. I think then that we should no longer hesitate about building. We must do so unless we would limit the number of boarders to about 65 for that is all that can be comfortably and conveniently taken in the present building. I have taken more as I did not want it to be reported that we had no room. This would injure us if we were afterwards to enlarge the building. Now I want you to answer the following questions. Will you allow us to build? If so, where? and lastly will you loan us money to build with? I say above where will you allow us to build. I told you before that I am opposed to adding to this building. It was at one time a barracks and it is therefore hard to keep clean. The



plastering is all cracked and would require to be all done over again. It had at first a flat-roof and then they put on a sloped double roof and simply boarded up the gable ends; this looks very bad and besides the roof must soon be made over. So that the only thing about here that does not want renewing are the four walls. Besides there is no water to be had here and we are obliged to draw all that we use from the river. Near the church there is a very good site for a College where plenty of good water can be found and will front just on the street railway which is now running. I think that if you would consent to this arrangement it would be better in every way. The present building would answer for a house for the servants, a laundry and perhaps later a place like Ste. Barbe at Annonay. I say in the next place will



you advance me money to build. This is a very important question. I do not think I could spare more than \$2,000 when all my debts are paid. When we came here there was nothing in the house and the profits of each year have been spent in furnitute which remains, and in repairing the house. I do not expect much assistance from Toronto as their debts are scarcely paid up. If I borrow money here I will have to pay 8 or 9 per cent interest. In France you receive only 5 for your money. Besides owing to the unsettled state of France your money is much safer here than there. If you advance me the necessary money to build I will pay you 5 per cent annually and the principal gradually. I am making no rash promise now. I know what this house will be able to do. In four years I have paid over \$5000





for furniture and repairs and I have about \$2000 over, and this with the small number of pupils we had for three years. Now I wish you, if possible, to give me a decided answer to all my questions. I should like very much to begin the foundations, of whatever we would build, this Autumn so as to be able to occupy it next year at the opening of the scholastic year. Please then answer me at once and let me know definitely what I am to do.

The additions to and repairs on the church are not yet finished. When complete they will cost about \$25000. The church revenue will pay this without difficulty inside of ten years. When everything is done we will have one of the finest churches in Upper Canada.

In the College everything goes on to my satisfaction; the rules are well observed by



Masters and pupils. I have a very good staff of teachers and the pupils appear very well disposed.

Our new mission of Chatham appears to do very well. Father Hours and his confreres appear to be very well liked and their zeal deserves it.

In Toronto they have a very good school but they are not well enough patronized by the Canadians. Four-fifths of their boarders are Americans. Nothing new has occurred between the Abp. and Father Vincent. Bp. Crinnon has sent some pupils to St. Michael's. This proves that the Abp.'s bad opinions of us is not held by his fellow Bishops. We are all in good health here and we hope you and the confreres in France have the same blessing. Remember me kindly to all acquaintances, particularly to Père Raynaud.



I remain very Rev. Dear Superior,

Yours most respectfully and affectionately

Denis O'Connor.

P.S. Please write as soon as convenient, so  
that if anything is to be done I may begin at  
once.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College,

Sandwich, Dec. 14/74.

Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin,

Supr. Collège d'Annonay.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

Your letter of the 23rd ult. was received a few days ago. I must begin by stating that it gave me much pain. In it, as well as in your preceding letter you seem to attribute my desire to build to vanity and ambition. In your last you allude to this twice. If I desired to build an entirely new College it was simply because this building is in very bad repair unless by spending as much as a new building would cost it be put in good repair. Besides the drainage is very bad, and there is no water. Finally the site is not good as the College is too far from the main road. This is not only my opinion





but that of the Bp., Father Ferguson, and others who know the place well. However I will say nothing more about it as I have no desire to be considered a vain and ambitious man. I can safely say that I and my confreres here have never sought anything but the good of the Community. We have been satisfied with the merest necessities and have deprived ourselves of many comforts to which we are entitled, in order to get this College well started, and now what are our thanks?

The plan you propose in your last letter of utilizing this building is more expensive than what you proposed in your preceding one. But I think that unless you change your mind somewhat we will have to give up all idea of building. You say that you will not allow me to spend more than \$5000 or \$5200. In francs this looks



large; but you forget that dollars here are not worth much more than francs in France.

Whilst improving our church masons were paid 2 1/2 to 3 dollars per day; carpenters 2 to 2 1/2; common laborers 1 1/2; lumber for common purposes \$20 per 1000 feet and good lumber \$50; brick 6 1/2 to 7 per thousand; and everything else in proportion. Now I ask you what addition could we make for \$5000? Since receiving your letter I spoke to an architect and an experienced builder on the matter and both answered that very little could be done for that money and that I would do much better to wait for some time if I could not get more funds. This then is the case. We lack room of all kinds; for study, class, masters, servants, dining room, kitchen, and sleeping apartments. Since I wrote last, I have refused 10 or 12 applications



making in all 20 or 25 that have been refused. Besides I think I have accepted too many for the reason that we have never had so many sick as this year. If you cannot allow me to spend more than \$5000 I will reduce my actual number of boarders to 65 or 70 at most and wait until I can do something better. Of course if you insist on my building for \$5000 I will do so.

I cannot understand why you allow such large expenses to be made in Toronto and why you limit us so much here. You give them large sums in Toronto and here you will only give \$2000. Yet when they began their last addition in Toronto they had not within ten of as many boarders as we have now. I used to think that my administration of things merited your confidence. I am surprised and sorry to find that I have been deceiving myself. If you see fit to change your



decision, please let me know at once; if not, I shall wait, unless you require me to build at once for \$5000.

You say that Fr. Vincent would communicate to me a letter that he received from you. I have heard nothing of it. You state that I must do nothing without Fr. Vincent's approval. I have always considered that he made very many useless expenses in Toronto, but since you desire it, I will do nothing without his approval. You ask me to get the opinion of the Bp. I have done so several times and I gave it to you in my last letter as clearly as I could express myself. He thinks that we ought to build, as our success hitherto justifies us in doing so; and that we ought not to add to the present building, nor build on the present site, for which reason he offered to give us 10 acres of land more than





he first gave us. On reading over my letter I fear it may appear to you somewhat disrespectful; but I can assure you that I had no such intention. I simply wished to express to you my firm convictions.

Father Aboulin has been confined to his bed for 15 days with Bilious Fever. He is getting no better and I am much afraid it will turn into Typhoid. Quite a number of our boys are and have been sick. I have admitted none since Oct. 24th though some 9 or 10 have left for sickness or other reasons. My teachers are all well. As I will not write again before New Years I will now wish you and all the confreres a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Trusting that God may long protect you to rule the Community, I remain Very Res<sup>t</sup>. and dear Superior,



Yours very affectionately

Denis O'Connor.

P.S. I think you ought to let me spend \$10,000.

Our revenue from the church will easily pay the interest on whatever sum we will have to borrow out of \$10,000. Please answer without delay.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Sandwich,

Assumption College 3, February, 1875

Bien cher et vénéré Supérieur.

Me voilà à Sandwich, vous voyez que je n'ai pas tardé à remplir la promesse que je vous faisais dans ma dernière. Je vous donne sur le projet du Père O'Connor la manière de voir de Mgr. Walsh. Je crois devoir m'y rendre pour deux raisons. La 1ère est que le nouveau bâtiment sera placé de manière à utiliser le collège actuel pendant quelques années encore, et le fera contribuer à se donner plus tard un remplaçant. La 2me est que le collège actuel est loin d'être aussi bon que je le croyais et que les frais d'entretien et la réparation coûteraient plus que ne le fera dans son temps ce qui sera la complément et la fin du collège projeté. J'espère que comme nous vous trouverez



nos raisons valides et que vous accepterez nos vues.

La question de l'emplacement est résolue d'une manière tout à fait satisfaisante par Mgr. Walsh. Il vous donnera un lease du terrain nécessaire au Collège pour tant de siècles que nous voudrons. Cela tiendra toujours devant la conscience et devant la loi. So far so good. Reste maintenant la question vitale, celle de l'argent.

Voici les ressources dont peut disposer le Père O'Connor.

1. La main - - - - - \$2,000

2. De votre part - - - - - 3,000

3. De Toronto - - - - - 5,000

4. D'Owen Sound - - - - - 500

En tout - - - - - \$10,000

Ajoutez à cette somme ses économies pendant





les trois ou quatre années qui vont suivre elles seront au moins de \$2000 annuelles ... \$8000. Ajoutez ce qui lui est dû par son église paroissiale \$12,000 et vous avez ainsi une somme totale de \$19,700. Vous voyez donc que mon cher confrère a pour le moment une marge aussi large pour se mettre au travail et le faire sans s'exposer à des déceptions ... Nous sommes tous ici et à Toronto unanimes sur le point.

Mais comme les ressources il ne peut les réaliser tout de suite, il est de telle nécessité que vous obteniez pour lui de Rome la permission d'emprunter. Sans cela il faut renoncer à bâtir. Plus que cela, pour des raisons que le Père O'Connor vous expliqueralui-même sa maison fausse petit à petit diminuer en nombre et en plus fournir les mêmes classes de nécessité



qu'elle possède actuellement.

Mais que vous obteniez de Rome la permission nécessaire ca qu'elle vous soit refusée, le Père O'Connor va d'après votre permission se mettre à l'ouvrage sans retard, seulement il aura à rogner un peu les angles. Mais contre nécessité il va pas de là. Ce qu'il serait indispensable de batir actuellement coutera \$11,000.

Voici maintenat les ressources dont il peut disposer sans retard.

1. d'Annonay - - - - -	\$3,000
2. de son église paroissiale - - -	1,200
3. d'Owen Sound - - - - -	500
4. en main - - - - -	2,000
5. argent emprunté par lui - - - -	1,200
6. du Collège St. Michel - - - - -	2,100
7. emprunté par St. Michel en sa faveur - - -	<u>1,000</u>
	\$11,000



Je suppose que vous ne me refuserez pas d'emprunter pour rendre service à ce cher confrère qui ne peut réellement rester comme il est. Mais il vaudrait mieux sous tous les rapports que vous obtiniez de Rome la permission nécessaire. Cela mettrait tout à l'aise et nous donnerait la facilité de bâtir une maison plus convenable.

Rien de nouveau ici et à Toronto. Le père Aboulin se remet lentement mais surement. L'archevêque nous a fait une visite lundi soir. Il a été bon et affable. Puisse cela durer.

Adieu. Priez pour nous et bénissez nous afin que nous devenions de part en part plus dévoués à la gloire de Dieu et à notre oeuvre.

Votre tout dévoué en N.S.

C. Vincent.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College,

Sandwich, May 11/75.

Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin,

Supr. College of Annonay.

Very Rev. Dear Superior,

It is quite a long time since I have had a letter from you and also a long time since I have written to you. I did not care to write until all the arrangements about our new building were definitely settled. The work has been commenced and the foundations are about three feet over ground. The work is going on very slowly owing to very unfavorable weather. The contract is to be completed on the first day of November and I have no doubt it will be, as the contractors are very good and conscientious men. They are the same as did the work on the church last year, and I am sure I will have no trouble





with them. The new building will give us a good deal of room; a study-hall capable of holding 150; six class rooms; a large temporary chapel; two dormitories capable of holding 44 beds each; an antechamber near the study for hats and coats; bathroom; washing and dressing room; wardrobes; and eight other rooms for various purposes such as Community Room, parlors, private rooms, store-room, etc. Unfortunately we could make no provision for kitchen and dining room, both of which are very badly needed. If our number increases next year as it has done this, I do not know what we will do for dining room; now we have two distinct ones, and I suppose that next year we must have three. You will readily understand what an inconvenience that will be to us and to the servants. It is not possible to take down partitions and make



one large dining room, without endangering the safety of the present building. We will have no basement story in the new building as it is just as cheap to build in the air as in the ground and it is certainly more conducive to health. You will probably think that we are making the new building unnecessarily large; we think not. Just now we have 115 students of whom 80 are boarders. Since Christmas I have never taken more than 80 boarders; more than that would be too many, and even that number is too many for the room we have. Since November last I have refused a great many applications; even last week I refused three. You see then that we will be able to fill our house easily. I was obliged to make a new study hall as the old one is too small and too cold. The present study hall I will convert into a play-room.



Just now we have no playroom as I was obliged to let it in with the study hall to make room enough. We have need of classrooms as three of the masters hold class in their own room which is unhealthy and disorderly. We need a chapel as we are now obliged to send the boys to Mass in two divisions, and even then the present chapel is very small. We have decided to heat the new building with steam. It will cost only \$300 more than hot air and it is very much more efficient.

In one of your letters to Father Vincent you said you would send me \$3000 to help me with the building. I have been expecting the money for some time back. I hope you will send it as soon as possible. I wish you could send more, as I will have a great deal of expenses besides those for the new building, such as furniture,



etc. I am sure that you will do all that you can.

Father Vincent and I were in London last week to get a legal lease from the Bishop. He was as kind as usual and acceded to all our demands. He will be here immediately before St. Basil's day to give a retreat to the boys, and at the same time he will ordain Mr. Donohue priest and Mr. Cushin to Minor Orders. He is always very obliging and willing to render any service that we may require of him. The health of all, priests, masters, and boys, is very good, notwithstanding the very bad weather. The winter has been unusually long and cold, and the Spring is wet and chilly. There is scarcely any growth yet. Enclosed you will find a note from Fr. Feguson. You may give Hugh money as he directs and Hugh will pay it to me when he returns.





Yesterday was your patronal feast and though it is long since we celebrated it with you, yet our wishes and our prayers for your welfare were as fervent as in the good old days. May you live to celebrate many returns is the daily prayer of

Your very devoted child

Denis O'Connor.

P.S. Best wishes to all conferes, particularly to Père Raynaud. The sick confreres of Toronto are all getting better.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College.

Sandwich, July 13/75

Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin,

Annonay.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

Both your letters are received, that of the 30th May and the one containing cheque for 13000 fr. The cheque produced in our money \$2488.30. I am very much obliged by the assistance you give me and I can assure you it came at a very good time. I have not yet profited by the permission to borrow \$5000 or \$6000, but I shall do so at an early date. I shall be careful to pay it within the prescribed time.

In reply to your letter of May 30th I have to state that every part of the old College building will be still in use; and it is our intention to use it until such time as we can afford to do



without it, when the materials will be used in the construction of some portion of the new building.

I was surprised at your not approving of the size of our study hall. It is only 63 x 33 feet and can accommodate 150 at the most. I do not think that the surveillance will be difficult and when you multiply rooms you must multiply men. I am giving the building my closest attention to have everything in the best order, and as I have good Catholics for builders I have no difficulty in obtaining anything I wish. I am also exceedingly careful to add any extras to the original contract. Father Vincent has seen all the plans and has approved of them. I do nothing of any importance without consulting him. I have no fears about meeting all demands, now that I have your



permission to borrow \$6000. The plans are so made as to require no change to be made hereafter; consequently there will be no expense for changes or alterations. When we build again we will simply continue the plan. I am sure that, were you here, you would approve of everything. Since I wrote to you last I let out the contract for heating the new building. I decided to have it heated by steam. It will cost \$2250. To heat it by hot air would cost \$2000. The difference is so little that I thought it better to adopt steam, as it is a safer and more efficient way.

So much for your letter. Now for local matters. We closed school on the 23rd June. The Bishop advised me to close early, on account of being so crowded. We had a very successful year. The teachers and pupils, as a general





rule, gave me satisfaction.

Times are very hard in this part of Canada as well as in the United States. Notwithstanding, I have been well paid, better I think than other years, and the money that is still due is sure. I expect also to have a full house. Though times be hard, I think we must have a good attendance, our prices are so low, compared with American Colleges, that many will send here by preference. I have already received quite a few applications. You may fancy that I see everything "couleur de rose", but I am not much given to speculation.

Should Kingston be offered to us, I am of opinion that we should make every effort to take it. Kingston is for the Eastern part of this Province, what Sandwich is for the Western, i.e. the key. It is near the United States, and



a well conducted College there must receive many boys from the Eastern and Middle States.

Abp. Lynch seems to be converted. God grant that the grace may last. Our Bp. is always the same, kind, encouraging, and obliging. He laid the cornerstone of the new College, preached the retreat to the boys, ordained Mr. Donohoe, a confrere, priest, and gave Minor Orders to Mr. D. Cushin. We are all well.

With best wishes to P. Raynaud & confreres, and thanking you for your kindness,

I remain Very Rev. Dear Superior

Yours affectionately

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College,

Sandwich, Feb. 23/76.

Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin,

College of Annonay.

Very Rev. and very Dear Superior,

I have allowed your very kind letter to go unanswered too long a time. But I did not wish to write until we were finally settled in our new building. We have been using parts of it since the week before Christmas and we had the opening or blessing just a month ago, but there were still many little things to do, so that things were scarcely in full working order before the present time. We have a fine substantial building. It is convenient and comfortable and the boys have no reason to complain. We have a good supply of water and the steam heats the house very well and at very little



cost, except that of putting in. When once in, however, that puts an end to expenses for stoves. It gives much less trouble and is much cleaner. I am not able yet to give you a full account of the expenses. I expect you will be surprised to find them so high, and when I commenced I did not expect that they would amount to so much. The heating, water supply, and drainage alone cost over \$5000. I can assure you, however, that I did not spend a single dollar that could be avoided. All the expenses made were necessary, and anything that is done will not require any change in the future, at least, as far as I can see. These extra expenses leave me very short of money, but I am sure that I shall be able to meet all demands and that in one year's time I shall be perfectly at my ease, with God's help. Just now we have 88 boarders and





25 externs. At Xmas we lost quite a few boarders on account of the great scarcity of money; but we received more than we lost. Had times been good we would have received many more. Money is exceedingly scarce and it affects all classes. We hope that the return of Spring will give an increase of business and consequently more money. On the occasion of the blessing of the new College the Bishops of London and Detroit were present. Our Bp. is always friendly and the Bp. of Detroit now looks upon us with more favor than formerly. Success may make friends as well as enemies. He is very anxious that we should accept his offer of Detroit. So far, we have been unable to give him a definite answer, for the reason that nothing is settled concerning Kingston. There are many obstacles, as I suppose Fr. Vincent has informed you and



and these obstacles depend neither on us nor the Bishop. It would not be safe for us to take the College as long as they last and we can't tell when they will be removed. My opinion is that the taking of Kingston College will be put off for some time. This will enable us to take Detroit and I consider it the better offer of the two.

The health of the boys and masters has been remarkably good this year. The Doctor is scarcely ever seen here. Father Faure is never very well but I think he has been better than usual this winter. All others are very well. I am satisfied too, with the way things are going on. There is good discipline in the house and as a general thing the Masters do their work well.

We have had a very unusual winter. So far we have had only two days of sleighing and not



good at that. We have had a great deal of rain and consequently a superabundance of mud. We have had very little cold weather. Today is the coldest day of the winter and the thermometer stands at 2 above zero. The birds are back and we look for an early spring. God has been merciful to us this winter as there are many persons without work and there would be much suffering were the winter severe.

We were all delighted to learn from your letter that the Community is progressing so well in France. Evidently you could get more houses than you can take. I suppose you have the Scholasticate on a good footing and that all the men you send out are thoroughly fitted for their work. That is a thing that we lack here very much. Many of our professors have to work very hard to be able to teach their



classes well, and we have always to depend on their good will. Even with good will they are not so well trained as if they had a good course in a Scholasticate.

I am very glad to hear that Fr. Raynaud is so well. Has he given up his project of coming to America? Will he not be tempted by the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia? We should be all glad to see him. Please present him my respects and best wishes as also to all confreres of my acquaintance.

My conferes, Rev. Dear Superior, all join me in expressing to you our sincerest devotedness and our heartiest wishes for your welfare.

Y<sub>o</sub>urs very affectionately

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)





Assumption College, Sandwich, May /77.

Very Rev. Dear Superior,

I have allowed a very long time to pass without writing to you, but as I had not much to communicate I did not like to write you a letter containing nothing. I will now try to make up for my past neglect by writing you a long letter.

I received your last letter in good time and we were all pleased to learn that you are so well and that the confreres in France are also in good health. I was especially pleased to have news of Père Raynaud to whom you will please give my kindest regards. I would like very much to write hi, but there is so little of common interest between us that my letter would necessarily be very tame.

But I must come to matters in Sandwich, of which, I am sure, you will like to hear. In the



first place I am happy to inform you that I am well pleased with this scholastic year. The average attendance for the year has been eighty-two boarders and twenty-five dayscholars. The times have been so very hard that all here consider the attendance very good. Our boys are generally good, and give satisfaction by their good conduct, their piety, and their application to study. They are generally of a better class than we have had heretofore. You may remember that I told you before that the Latin classes had entirely gone down when we arrived here and that we would have some difficulty in creating a taste for classical studies. We have now good Latin classes, the number of classical students is increasing every year and a large number of them are studying for the priesthood. This year five will go to the Seminary who commenced with



us. The health of the boys has been unusually good, better I think than ever I knew it before. The health of the masters has also been very good. Father Vernede has been the only exception. Early last Autumn he was taken with sciatica from which he suffered very much for several weeks. Though he is yet somewhat lame, and I fear he will remain so, yet he is able to attend to his ordinary duties. He is no longer study master. Fortunately I gave that post at the beginning of the year to one of our pupils of last year, and he is doing very well. Father Ferguson enjoys very good health and he has grown so stout that you would not recognize Father Ferguson of your time. He teaches two hours a day in the College and besides has charge of the Noviciate in which he takes a very great interest. He intends to write himself



and give you a full account of it. He does not preach as much as formerly for the reason that the very great majority of our people do not understand English. Father McBrady is making quite a name as a preacher in both French and English. Father Vernede also preaches well. Fr. Aboulin is as zealous as ever and looks after the parish very well. Few parishes are attended as well. He is well assisted by Fr. Faure, whose health is better than usual. He does not preach or sing Mass any more, but in all other things he is as good and as useful as any of us. Mr. Cushin will be ordained priest at Trinity. He is an able and an edifying confrere. At the same time, another confrere with whom you are not acquainted will be ordained subdeacon. You will understand from this that we have not the same difficulty here as they have





in Toronto to get our subjects ordained. I cannot speak in too high terms of Bishop Walsh's treatment of us. He is always kind, friendly and fatherly. Last week there was a meeting of nearly all the priests of the Diocese at the Bishop's in London to celebrate the elevation of your old friend, Father Bruyère, to the dignity of a Roman Prelate. The Bishop and Father Kilroy spoke very flatteringly of you and the confreres in France, and the Bishop paid the highest tribute to the Basilians in his Diocese. I suppose our time of trial must come, but I do not think it will come from Bp. Walsh, for you may rest assured we will do nothing to foreit his good opinion. We fear to lose him. Just now the papers are filled with reports to the effect that the Archbishop is to retire. It is generally supposed that the Papal Ablegate



who will arrive in Canada this month will settle that matter. The Abp. wants a coadjutor, but none of the other Bishops wish to act in that capacity and naturally they do not care to see a stranger brought in, and of course the Abp. does not wish to retire. Everyone but himself thinks he ought to retire; and so the case stands. Should the Ablegate find that he ought to retire, Bp. Walsh is popularly expected to take his place. Thus what will be our loss will be St. Michael's gain, as I am sure he will be friendly to that College.

In your letter you ask how I manage my debts; so far I have been able to meet all payments due as interest, but I have done very little towards paying the principal. Times are so very hard that I find it almost impossible to get money, and interest is so high ( 9 and 10%)



that it takes all I can spare to pay it and to make repairs necessary in the College. Besides everything is very dear so that I find great difficulty in making ends meet. I heard lately that you are advancing money again to Fr. Vincent. Could you not advance me some also. By the way that things appear now, the money of the Community will be safer here than in France and I would not have to pay so high an interest so we both would gain. Please think the matter over and try to decide in my favour. Fr. Vincent has not yet paid me all he promised, and Hugh Ferguson has not paid anything and I do not think he intends to pay, so I suppose Fr. Charmant will send me the amount as it was kept back on the loan you sent me when I built.

The Jesuits have taken the place offered to us by the Bishop of Detroit and they are going



TO BUILD A College at once, so as to begin the classes in September. It will be only an Externat for the present, and therefore it will not hurt us so much. They took the place on the same conditions as were offered to us and were very glad to get it. I cannot help thinking that you have made a very serious mistake in this matter. I do not like to say anything on this matter as I have been given to understand that I am too young and too enthusiastic to pass a sound judgement on such things. The Bishop of Detroit is very friendly towards us, and sends quite a few students to our College at the expense of the Diocese. I cannot say how it will be for the time to come. He has gone to Rome and it is quite possible that he may pay you a visit on his return. You will find that he is truly American in his manners, but the more you





will see of him the better you will like him.

I and the other local superiors were in Toronto a week ago. Fr. Vincent submitted to our consideration a letter to you, which I suppose you have already received. I would like to make a few remarks upon it which are for you only. I know that in the Mission the religious exercises of the Community are much neglected. I think you would do well to direct Fr. Vincent to make visitations, say twice a year, to see each member privately and hear what he has to say. I think he ought also to see for himself how the money is spent in each place. You are too far away to see such things. It ought to be his right and his duty to enquire fully into the spiritual and temporal matters of each house. In the matter of changing confreres from one place to another Fr. Vincent is apt to forget that he is



a local superior as well as Provincial. In Toronto there are six priests, yet Fr. Vincent has to do all the preaching. There are others very well able to preach, but he lets them have their own way. The consequence is they are becoming useless men whom no other superior wishes to have. I am convinced that, had Fr. Vincent insisted on the Rule with Messrs. Cherrier, Walsh & Mulcahy they would not give the trouble they now do. You know Fr. Vincent of old; he does not like trouble and he consequently temporizes too much. The Rule suffers and a bad effect is produced on the confreres. I think a stricter observance of the Rule is necessary, and, if nothing else can be done a few should be sacrificed to save the many. There are many things which need reformation and unless the change begins in Toronto we can do nothing



elsewhere. Regarding the "susurrations" I think Fr. Vincent alludes to certain reports concerning the state of things in Toronto to me and others. I can certify that the persons who spoke to me did it as a matter of duty, hoping thereby to have a change made to bring about a better observance of the Rule. It seems to me they have a right to do so. I think you ought to send us as soon as possible the printed Constitution, Directorium, and Rules for the Noviciate. I think all moneys received, except Masses, ought to go to the common fund. I trust you will excuse my plain speaking on these matters as I seek only the good of the Community. Fr. Ferguson and others unite in expressing to you their sincerest love and respect. I remain Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

Yours most affectionately and respectfully

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



This indenture made in duplicate this thirtieth day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventy five in pursuance of the Act respecting short forms of leases, between the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of London in Ontario and the Right Reverend John Walsh, Doctor of Divinity and Bishop of the said Diocese, the Lessors of the first part Jean Marie Bruyère of the said city of London Vicar General of the said diocese, George R. Northgraves and John Murphy of the said city of London Clergymen of the said Diocese of the second part And the Reverend Charles Vincent of the city of Toronto in the County of York, Provincial in Canada and the Reverend Dennis O'Connor Superior of Assumption College at Sandwich of the Congregation of St. Basil of the Third Part.

Whereas by an act passed in the eighth year





of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria Chapter 82, intituled an act to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishops of Toronto and Kingston in Canada in each diocese it was enacted amongst other things that whenever it might be deemed expedient to erect any new diocese or dioceses in that part of the then Province of Canada formerly called Upper Canada the Bishop or Bishops of such new diocese or dioceses and his or their successor or successors for the time being should have the same powers conferred upon them as are by the said act conferred upon the said Bishops of Toronto and Kingston respectively.

And whereas in pursuance of the authority conferred by the said act a new diocese was in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty six erected in Upper Canada called the Diocese



of London the name of which was afterwards changed to the Diocese of Sandwich and continued to be known as such until the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy when it was recalled the Diocese of London by which name it is now known

And whereas the said Right Reverend John Walsh Bishop as aforesaid has agreed to lease the lands hereinafter mentioned to the said parties of the third part and their successors in office as Provincial of the Congregation or Religious Community known as St. Basil in Canada and Superior of Assumption College at Sandwich in trust for the use and benefit of the said Congregation of St. Basil and of the said College and has nominated selected and appointed the said parties of the second part to consent to the said lease and everything herein contained.



Now this indenture witnesseth that in consideration of the rents covenants and agreements hereinafter reserved and contained on the part of the said Lessees their successors and assigns to be paid observed and performed the said Lessors have demised and leased and by these presents do demise and lease unto the said Lessees as such Provincial and Superior as aforesaid their successors and assigns in trust for the use and benefit of the said Congregation of St. Basil and of the said College.

All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Township of Sandwich in the County of Essex and Province of Ontario being composed of part of lot number sixty three, in the first concession of said Township now within the limits of the town of Sandwich and may be more particularly



described as follows that is to say: commencing at the easterly side of a road adjoining the westerly side of lot sixty three in the first concession of the Township of Sandwich West commonly called the Huron Church line, with the westerly side of a road running across a portion of the first concession before mentioned known as the Peltier Coulie Road; thence north sixty four degrees thirty minutes east magnetically along the northerly side of said road eight chains twenty and one half links more or less to the line between lots sixty three and sixty four thence north twenty six degrees forty five minutes west along the said boundary between lots sixty three and sixty four ninety eight chains eighty six and one half links more or less to a line running north sixty four degrees thirty minutes east through a point distant two





hundred and twenty feet measured on a course south twenty six degrees forty five minutes east from the outer wall of the Roman Catholic Cathedral thence south sixty four degrees thirty minutes west eight chains twenty and one half links more or less to the Huron Line thence south twenty six degrees forty five minutes east east thirteen chains twenty one and one half links to land occupied by one Menard thence north sixty three degrees fifteen minutes east four chains thence south twenty six degrees forty five minutes east parallel to the Huron Line five chains and sixty six links more or less to the Roman Catholic Cemetery thence north twenty seven degrees east sixty seven links to the north east angle of the Roman Catholic Cemetery thence south twenty six degrees forty five minutes east four chains and seventy links more or less to the south



easterly angle of the Roman Catholic Cemetery thence south seventy seven degrees west four chains and seventy eight links more or less to the Huron Line thence south twenty six degrees forty five minutes east magnetically along the easterly side of the said Huron Line seventy five chains and ninety three links more or less to the point beginning containing by admeasure-ment seventy six acres three roods and twenty nine perches.

To have and to hold the said demised premises with their appurtenances for and ruing the term of five hundred years to be computed from the thirtieth day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventy five and from thenceforth next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended yielding and paying therefore yearly and every year during the said term hereby granted unto the said Lessors



their assigns the sum of one dollar on the first day of January in each and every year during the said term.

And the said Lessees for themselves their heirs successors and assigns covenant with the said Lessors and their assigns that the said Lessees their successors and assigns will during the said term pay unto the said Lessors or their assigns the rent hereby reserved in manner hereinbefore mentioned and also will pay all taxes duties and assessments whatsoever without any deduction whatever whether municipal, parliamentary now charged or hereinafter to be charged on the said demised premises or any part thereof or upon the said Lessors on any account thereon and also that the said Lessees their successors or assigns shall not nor will during the said term assign transfer or set over or otherwise by any



act or deed procure the said premises or any of them to be assigned or transferred set over or sublet unto any person or persons whomsoever or corporation or corporations whatsoever for any term exceeding twenty five years without the consent in writing of the Lessors their successors or assigns first had and obtained.

And also that the said Lessees and their successors and assigns will immediately hereafter establish and maintain and keep established and maintained during the said term at the College of L'Assumption a double course of studies one classical and mathematical and the other commercial and keep a sufficient staff of professors and teachers to conduct direct and carry on the same efficiently and will also furnish such board and such tuition as is afforded by the said College and requested to be furnished by the Bishop for the





time being during said term of five hundred years of the said diocese of London to two students yearly and every year if the number of students entered as boarders at said College be less than sixty, and to three students yearly and every year if the number of such students exceed sixty, such students to be selected by such Bishop of such Diocese for the time being.

This lease to be absolutely void in the event of the Lessees their successors or the said Congregation of St. Basil ceasing to be and to remain in peace favor and communion with the Pope as head of the Roman Catholic Church.

And it is expressly agreed and understood by and between the parties hereto that the said Lessees their successors or assigns are to be at liberty to raise moneys by Mortgage security



or otherwise upon the said lands and any improvements hereafter to be made upon the same from any person or persons or corporation or corporations whosoever or whatsoever, to the extent of one fifth of the value of the lands and improvements upon which the same shall be advanced, said money to be so advanced as aforesaid to be applied exclusively in improving or erecting buildings on the said lands.

And the said Lessees agree not to raise money as aforesaid to a greater extent than one fifth of such value aforesaid.

And it is further agreed by and between the parties hereto that all improvements made upon the said lands shall at the expiration of the said term become the property of the said Lessors.

Provided always and it is hereby expressly agreed and understood that if the rent hereby



reserved or any part thereof shall be unpaid for fifteen days after any of the days on which the same ought to have been paid and a formal demand shall have been made thereof or in case of the breach or non-performance of any of the covenants or agreements herein contained on the part of the Lessees their successors and assigns to be observed and performed then in either of such cases it shall be lawful for the Lessors at any time thereafter, into and upon the demised premises or any part thereof in the name of the whole to re-enter and the same to have again repossess and enjoy as of his or their former estate, and everything hereinafter contained to the contrary notwithstanding and the said term hereby created shall cease determine and be at an end.

And the said Lessors do hereby for themselves



their successors and assigns covenant with the Lessees their successors and assigns that he and they paying the rent hereby reserved and performing the covenants and agreements hereinbefore on his and their part contained shall and may peaceably possess and enjoy the said premises for the term hereby granted without any interruption or disturbance from the Lessors their Successors and assigns or any other person or persons lawfully claiming by from or under him them or any of them.

And the said parties of the second part hereto hereby consent to the execution of these presents and everything herein contained as witnessed by their becoming parties hereto and executing the same.

Witness the Corporate seal of the said Diocese and the hands and seals of the said parties hereto.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of





Patrick Mulkern.

John Walsh, Bishop of London.

J.M. Bruyère V.G.

George R. Northgraves Pt.

John Murphy.

We, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original document.

Dated at Toronto, November 26th, 1923.

F. Forster

F.S. Ruth

(Copied from the certified copy in the General Archives)



(Pages 1-4 missing, begins on page 5)

This is all I have to state in answer to the questions. If you do not find it sufficient, please let me know and I shall be most happy to give you further information.

As I stated above Father Vincent has been to see the Bishop of Cleveland, who received him better than I expected. The Bp. told him that Louisville could only prove a failure on account of the location and chiefly on account of the opposition of his priests to it. For this reason he had determined to build, as soon as possible, a Lesser and a Greater Seminary in the neighbourhood of Cleveland. As he is not yet ready to do so, he is resolved to convert, next Fall or as soon after as possible, the present Seminary building in Cleveland into what he calls a Secular School, where in the mean time



he would place his subjects. I suppose that by a Secular School he means a College as distinguished from a Little Seminary. He says that it was always his intention to give our Fathers charge of this secular school, if we would accept. On the whole Father Vincent seems much pleased with his visit. I have not seen him so he can give you fuller information than I can. The Bp. did not say that he would give us charge of the Seminaries when they will be built. As I do not know more on the subject I will not offer any advice until I am further informed. But here is another thing which I suppose Father Vincent will mention to you. On his way here he called on our Bishop at London. The Bishop told him as a secret, and such I tell it to you, that the Jesuits are to leave the Diocese in August, as the Company has decided to withdraw as far as



possible its members from Missions and to place them in large towns, chiefly in the United States. Bishop Walsh told Father Vincent that if we could supply men he would „give„ us the Parish now held by the Jesuits. The Parish consists of the Town of Chatham and the surrounding country. Chatham is a town of 6000 inhabitants and is situated east of here about 45 miles. It is accessible both by boat and cars. The Parish is now considered the best in the Diocese. The Bp. considers that two priests would be sufficient to attend it, but I think it would be better were there three as the Parish is large and there is a convent in the Town. At present there are four Jesuits there, but the Bp. intends to form a Parish out of some far-removed Missions which will render the Parish of Chatham only more desireable. I am decidely of





opinion that we should take that Parish if at all possible. I see no draw-back on the side of the offer. The only difficulty is to find suitable men to put there. I consider this offer more favourable than that of Hamilton. I would then advise you to consent to it by all means if the Bishop perseveres in his intention. I expect to see the Bishop soon and if he lets me know anything more on the matter I will inform you of it. This offer of the Bp. proves that he is satisfied with us and that he will encourage us.

Our winter has been very long and very severe, the severest we have had for years. Spring is not yet commenced but we hope to have it soon. Notwithstanding the great cold the winter has been healthy. In the College especially we have been very well since the death



of that poor boy who died at the end of November.  
For my own part I have escaped taking a single  
cold, which you know is very unusual for me.  
Father Faure, too, is better than usual. He and  
the other confreres wish to be remembered to  
you. Hoping that you and all the confreres are  
well, I remain, Very Rec. & Dear Superior

Yours very devotedly

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



J.M.J.

Toronto 2 avril 1873.

Bien cher et vénéré Supérieur.

J'ai été si découpé la semaine dernière que je n'ai pu vous écrire. Merci pour le souvenir que vous donnez à la ste. Messe à ma chère et sainte mère. J'ai donc fait le voyage de Cleveland et ai vu Mgr. Gilmour. Je suis content de sa reception, de sa manière de voir et de parler et de ce que j'entendis dire de lui. On le dit homme de décision, mais franc. Avec ces hommes là on s'entend. Louisville selon lui ne peut réussir. Il se propose donc de remettre le collège une fois s'offre pour le montant de la dette et de transporter le personnel à Cleveland dans le local actuel du Grand Séminaire. Là se trouveraient <sup>réunis</sup> réassis pour le présent un grand externat et son petit Séminaire. Le Petit Séminaire serait plus tard transporté dans une



autre local un peu dans la compagnie du moment qu'il aurait ici le temps de le bâtir. La question du G. Séminaire est subordine<sup>onni</sup> à la décision que <sup>prendent</sup> publient sur ce point les évêques de la province de Cincinnati. S'ils forment un Grand Séminaire commun, alors Mgr. Gilmour n'en bâtirait point dans son diocèse. S'il en était autrement, alors il en bâtirait un lui <sup>- même</sup> même.

A quelle donnerait-il? Je ne sais. Le changement de Louisville à Cleveland ne se fera probablement pas cette année, à moins qu'il ne puisse si fort procurer les choses que ce changement devienne possible. Il y tient et je ne m'étonnais pas s'il avait lieu. Il faut donc nous préparer et avoir pour Cleveland un personnel plus nombreux. Cela est difficile. Priez Dieu qu'il <sup>ira</sup> applanisse aussi cette difficulté. Les deux maisons de Sandwich et Louisville marchent bien. Il peut y





avoir de nouvelles conditions à passer avec Mgr. Gilmour. Veuillez me donner vos ordres à temps avec une latitude suffisante et le pouvoir nécessaire pour régler les choses. Ces évêques n'aiment pas trop d'attendre. Je préférerais que la maison fit au compte de l'évêque et que les professeurs reçoivent une somme déterminée. Dites moi le minimum.

Lors de mon passage à London en allant à Sandwich je vis Mgr. Walsh. Il voulliait bien que nous prisions la Mission de Chatham. Les Jésuites la quittent au mois de juillet, de leur plein gré, sans désagérment avec l'évêque. C'est la première paroisse du diocèse. Il y faudrait deux prêtres, l'un français, l'autre anglais. Je pouvais peut-être fournir ce dernier mais à vous à fournir l'autre si vous le pourrez. Mgr. Walsh considérait comme un faveur



qu'on lui ferait cette charge que nous nous <sup>interventions</sup> imposerions. D'un autre coté il faut que j'envoie un autre prêtre à Owen Sound. Deux ne peuvent plus suffire à <sup>les</sup> les besoins. D'autant plus que le pauvre Cherrier n'a pas changé d'esprit dans toutes ses pérégrinations. Il fait à peu près ce qu'il lui plait. Vous comprendrez sans peine combien le bon ordre en souffre. D'un autre coté le père Granotier quand il a quelques choses en tête, n'en demande pas <sup>l'aimablement</sup>. Il faut donc tacher de mettre là un trait d'union. Le père O'Connor pense à M. Mollony pour Chatham. Il pourrait faire là, qu'en pensez vous? Je ne serais pas étonné qu'on eut pensé à lui ici en haut lieu pour me remplacer. Que Dieu vous dirige. Faites tous pour le mieux. Mgr. Lynch ayant fait appeler quelques élèves chez lui il ya quelques temps, renouvelle les accusations antérieurs et



se prescrit certaines expressions qui irrit-  
erent fortement les élèves. Il *formaient* donc un  
comité à mon issue et m'apportaient ensuite une  
présentation en forme écrite sur parchemin.

Elle n'est pas trop mal redigée pour un travail  
d'élèves. Je n'ai pas cru devoir la laisser  
partir, mais je les garde comme un pièce dont  
nous pourrions nous servir au besoin. Je n'ai  
pas eu et ne puis pas avoir de communications  
avec l'archevêque. Vous comprenez que je ne puis  
me dédire et me faire ce que je ne suis pas, pour  
à Dieu. Cela ne se *pardonne* pas.

Mille choses affectueusses à tous les confrères.  
Je vous embrasse avec toute l'affection et le  
devouement possible.

C. Vincent,

Supr. de St. Michel.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College.

Sandwich, Apr. 7/'73.

Very Rev. & Dear Superior,

A few days after I had sent away my answers to your questions I received your kind letter. I am sorry and glad too, that we should all have misunderstood you so, concerning St. Michael's. I shall endeavour to mind exactly your advices as to the conduct we are to hold concerning the Toronto troubles, though it is very difficult to be resigned under constant annoyance. Lately again during Fr. Vincent's visit to Louisville, His Grace summoned some of the boys before him, repeated to them his complaints against the College, and against the students, etc. The boys denied all his charges, and on their return home told all to the other boys, who appointed six of their number, three





Canadians and three Americans, to draw up a protest against such charges. Of course Fr. Vincent on his return would not allow the protest to be presented. This shows in what esteem His Grace is held by his students.

When Fr. Vincent was here, I noticed that he had made up his mind not to let himself be troubled any more by these annoyances, but to let things quietly take their course.

The conduct of Bp. Walsh contrasts strongly with that of His Grace. Since I wrote to you I had occasion to go to London to see His Lordship. He received me with the greatest kindness. He spoke to me of the Chatham project, and went so far as to say that we would "confer a favor" on him by taking charge of that Parish. He desired me to urge you to accept his offer. He will leave us the Parish on the same conditions



as we hold this one, so we have no fear to be removed as long as we do our work as becomes good priests. I believe there are no debts on the place at present. A Separate School must be built almost immediately and in the course of six or seven years, at latest, a church must be built for the French Canadian population which at present numbers about 125 families. To meet these expenses, there are the revenues of the church, and besides in the Town itself there are 15 acres of land belonging to the church, the income of which will be considerable under proper management. You see that the offer the Bp. makes us is one quite different from that of Owen Sound. But, you will ask me, how are we to furnish men for the place. I admit it is pretty difficult just now. I have thought the matter over pretty seriously and here is what



I concluded. In Toronto we have several young priests, who are quite able enough, but they lack experience, and cannot acquire it as they have no faculties. The Bp. would probably object to them for this reason, unless they were under the direction of a man of some little experience. I think the whole matter could be settled by your sending out Fr. Moloney. It has been supposed here that the Abp. would ask you to remove Fr. Vincent and to put Fr. Moloney in his place. But, even were there no reasons for not allowing Fr. Moloney to go to Toronot, we trust you will make no change as all are of opinion that Father Vincent is the only man amongst us who has coolness and judgement enough to come safely through these difficulties. I think then that Fr. Moloney should be sent to Chatham or to Sandwich. He would do very well



in Chatham as he knows both languages, but perhaps he would be exposed more there than here to make too many visits as he did in Toronto. I am of opinion that on the whole he would do better here in my place. Here we never make or receive visits, the place is so retired. His age would have more influence with the masters than mine. I sometimes feel this pretty keenly. He is a very good teacher of Theology and Scripture. Perhaps his health would not permit him to attend to the hard duties of a parish, whilst here he need never go out for sick-calls and he could have an Econome who would relieve him of much that I have to do. Though not sure, I am inclined to think that the Bp. would be very glad to see him in either place. My health now is such that I could attend a parish without danger on that head. Do not imagine from this





that I am anxious to leave Sandwich. On the contrary; it would cost me much to do so; but you must always consider me at your disposal when the good of the Community is at stake. My honest conviction is that Fr. Moloney will do better here than in Chatham. One of my reasons for naming Fr. Moloney is that the Bp. would like to have an English-speaking person, I mean one whose mother tongue is English as Superior in both places. He told me so. His reasons are these. In Chatham the great majority of the parishioners are of English, Irish or Scotch extraction. Here as the priests of the house and parish are chiefly French the Bp. thinks that were the Superior not English, many boys might not come for fear of finding themselves in a house altogether French. I do not think that the Bp. would like this to be known, and



I simply tell it to you that you may know the true state of the case. Perhaps you might think of sending Fr. Malbos. He certainly will not be acceptable for reasons you know.

I think I told you before that the Bp. thinks that two priests would be enough for the present. I think there would be rather too much work for two and I am of opinion that you should send at least two from France.

Perhaps you may think as some amongst us have done that the Bp. of Hamilton may be displeased if we should take Chatham, before going to Hamilton, as he wishes. I answer that it will be much easier to take Chatham than Hamilton. In Hamilton we should start a classical school that could cope with the Grammar School; now the Hamilton Grammar School in the latest report of the Inspectors is marked as first class. To cope



with this we should send to Hamilton not only a good classical teacher, but also a good mathematical teacher. These two we cannot spare out of our present number. All things considered, I believe Chatham a better offer than Hamilton, and also one easier to accept.

I have received, since commencing this letter a letter from the Bp. in which he again speaks of our taking Chatham, and he says, "it is most probable the Jesuits will be withdrawn this year." You will see then immediately what can be done so an answer can be given to His Lordship.

The Bp. has promised to come and give a retreat himself to our boys, during the month of May. I mention this to show you what interest he takes in the College.

There is nothing new here since my last letter. We are all well.



Hoping that you and all the confreres in  
France are in good health,

I remain Very Rev. Dear Superior,

Your devoted confrere

Denis O'Connor

P.S. I remind you again that if the Jesuits  
leave Chatham it will be on the first of July  
prox. D.O'C.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)





St. Peter's Palace,

London, Ont.

My Dear Father Soulerin:

I trust you will kindly excuse me for not having written before now in acknowledgement of your esteemed and most welcome letter of the 28th of last October. I have been extremely busy ever since and I know you would not stand on ceremony with me.

I am happy to inform you, and I feel the information will be consoling to you amid your many trials that I am perfectly satisfied with the members of your Order that are in this Diocese. Their daily lives are edifying and they are doing the work entrusted to them whether in the parish of Sandwich or in the College with zeal and efficiency. Father O'Connor is a good priest and an excellent Superior and I find him



at all times submissive to me and willing to oblige me. There is a custom prevailing amongst some of your fathers in this country which entre nous I believe it would be a good thing to put a stop to. I allude to the custom of visiting the houses of laymen during vacation and sometimes staying in them several days. I am of opinion that such a custom is injurious to the religious spirit of your fathers, and is at times disedifying to the secular clergy. I am not aware that the members of any other religious body in this country are accustomed to do this thing. I would not wish you to say that I have complained of this matter but I believe it would be well for you to act on the information herein given.

The Jesuit Fathers intend withdrawing from Chatham, a large and thriving town in this diocese,



in July next and I would wish to have their place supplied by some of your good fathers. I have already spoken on the matter to Fathers Vincent and O'Connor and they promised to write to you about it. Will you have the kindness to inform me at your earliest convenience whether I may expect this important mission will be taken charge of by some of your good fathers. The town of Chatham is already of much importance and is certain from its position to grow into far greater importance in the not distant future, situated as it is on the banks of a navigable river and in the heart of a fertile country and in the neighbourhood of two great railways. The Catholic population is large and becoming wealthy. There is a good presbytery, a large brick church, a splendid Ursulin Convent, the largest in Ontario, a large brick school is being built and the rev-



venues of the church are considerable besides possessing 15 acres of land in the town. There are still three country congregations attached to the Mission. The Catholic population is for the most part English speaking but there is also a considerable number of French-Canadian families. This is the state of place without the slightest exaggeration. I am anxious to have a religious order in spiritual charge of that town and mission and should prefer your fathers to others. I believe there will be no peace in Toronto until Father Vincent is removed. I say this without implying that this good priest is in fault. I have honestly endeavoured to bring a better state of feeling but my endeavours have been in vain. I know not what to advise in the premises, perhaps Father Hours would do as Superior in Toronto.





Believe me your devoted friend in Xto

✦ John Walsh

Bp. of London.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



Assumption College,

Sandwich, March 4th, 1874.

Very Rev. J.M. Soulerin,

Collège d'Annonay.

Very Rev. Dear Superior,

You appear to have forgotten us in Sandwich. I have not had a letter from you for months; but I suppose you have so much to attend to that you cannot write frequently.

My reason for writing to you at present is this. I went to London yeaterday to see the Bishop concerning some proposed additions to our church. Amongst other things he told me that he had received a letter from you in which you stated that I might possibly be removed to Toronto, to be replaced by Father Vincent. He was kind enough to say that he was quite satisfied with me and that he would prefer me to



remain; but rather than give you any unnecessary trouble he would consent to the change. He added that it is his opinion that the change will be utterly fruitless for the reason that the College has become a mania with the Abp. of Toronto; and that no matter who will be in Toronto as Superior the Abp. will be still dissatisfied; and that our only remedy is an appeal to Rome or to suffer patiently until the Abp. is removed by one cause or another. Now Bp. Walsh knows the Abp. thoroughly and his opinion is of the greatest weight and I do not see that you can do better than follow it.

For my part I am decidedly adverse to going to Toronto under present circumstances. The Abp. and I will not agree 15 days. It is quite possible that he will not give me faculties. I have spoken with Fathers Hours and Ferguson on what



the Bp. said to me. Both think that your proposed change will harm both Colleges and I am strongly of their opinion. Evidently the Abp.'s plan is to bring about as many changes in Toronto as possible, to make us pass for a Community of rebels or incapables. We trust you will make no change, as it will encourage the Abp., will condemn Father Vincent before the public as every one knows about the trouble and it will be a very great harm to the Community. The Abp. has simply lied to you and Bp. Charbonnell. Is it not quite time enough to remove Fr. Vincent when the Abp. has proved his charges? You know for a fact that every Bishop in the country condemns the Abp.'s conduct towards us. How is, then, that you can act as if we were all guilty? If we alone felt that we were in the right, we would have a right to expect that, before yielding as you do to the





Abp. in everything and thereby condemning the whole of us, you would see that his charges were well founded; but, now, that all the Bishops and right minded priests of the Province think as we do, your conduct is simply unaccountable. You will find my remarks very strong. I would never write in this way, did I not feel bound to do all I can to prevent an injustice being done to Fr. Vincent and through him to the whole Community. Your own experience with the Abp. ought surely to teach you how little justice we have to expect at the Abp.'s hands. Bishop Walsh did not tell me to speak to you on this matter, so you will please say nothing to him about my writing to you on the matter. But here is a matter he did tell me to write to you about. He is somewhat disappointed that you will not consent to take Chatham permanently. He says



that if we take it only for a time we cannot take the same interest in the place and that many improvements might be neglected. He hopes then that you will consent to take it permanently. My opinion is that you ought to do so. We have nothing to lose by it. His Lordship wishes that you should take the Parish at least for five years. He will soon write to you on the matter himself and I am sure you ought to oblige him in every possible way. He is very kind to us. We are all very well and doing about as usual. I hope you will not find my letter disrespectful; and that you will not think it was written in a passion; I have simply expressed what has been in my mind for months. I remain, Dear Superior,

Yours very affectionately,

Denis O'Connor.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)



St. Peter's Palace,

London, Ont., le 21 Mai, 1874.

Mon très cher confrere,

Je suis chargé de la part de Sa Grandeur Mgr. Walsh de vous écrire au sujet de la Mission de Chatham.

Comme vous le savez, déjà, les Pères Jésuites se retirent pour le plus tard, le 1<sup>er</sup> du mois de tout prochain. Il est possible qu'ils soient obligés de quitter au commencement de juillet. Le Rev. Père Provincial n'a pu donner une réponse définitive quant à l'époque.

Comme Sa Grandeur a déjà correspondu avec vous au sujet de la Mission de Chatham il est inutile pour moi d'entrer dans de grands détails à ce sujet. Monseigneur Walsh vous a offert et vous offre de nouveau la Mission ci-dessus mentionnée. Quant aux conditions de l'engagement,



Monseigneur pense que celles dont vous parlez dans votre lettre du 9 fevrier dernier sont probablement les plus raisonnables pour le moment.

Dans la lettre ci-dessus mentionnée, après avoir exprimé la préférence que vous donnez aux collèges plutôt qu'aux Missions, vous ajoutez: "Cependant si Votre Grandeur se trouvait embarrassé pour remplacer les Pères Jésuites au moment de leur départ, je ne m'oppose pas à ce que M. Vincent, s'il le peut, mette à votre disposition deux ou trois de ses sujets, en attendant que vous puissiez en avoir d'autres." Conformément à vos désirs, Mgr. pense qu' un engagement pour cinq ans serait peut-être le meilleur pour le moment et l'expiration de ce terme, si vous et vos confrères, d'accord avec l'autorité ecclésiastique du diocèse jugent a propos





d'établir à Chatham, d'une manière permanente, une branche de votre excellent Société, Sa Grandeur vous donnera ce que nous appelons une lease légale de la Mission et de la sus-dite propriété de Chatham, ou du moins, on pourrait, à cette époque, en venir à un arrangement définitif qui satisferait les deux partis contractants.

Comme la Paroisse de Chatham renferme une Communauté de Religieuses Ursulines avec un Pensionat florissant ainsi qu'un petit nombre de missions situées à une certaine distance de la ville, le nombre de prêtres attachés à la Residence ne pourrait pas être moins de trois ou quatre.

Ayez la bonté de répondre au plutôt à cette communication; faites aussi connaître au Père Vincent vos dessins à ce sujet à fin qu'il ait le temps de faire les arrangements nécessaires.



Je profite de cette occasion pour renouveler notre ancienne connaissance. Nos rapports ont été interrompus de puis bien long temps. Je puis vous assurer cependant que je n'ai jamais oublié les heureux moments que nous avons passés ensemble à Toronto. Je dois ajouter que je suis encore ce que j'ai toujours été un ami fidèle et sincère de votre excellente Société.

Agréez, cher confrère, l'expression des sentiments respectueux avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Votre humble serviteur

J.M. Bruyère, V.G.

My Dear Superior,

On reflection I would prefer to have your fathers take charge of Chatham Mission for five years. If at the end of that time your fathers and I shall be satisfied with the Mission and



its management we could come to a more permanent arrangement.

✦ John Walsh, Bp. of London.

N.B. Please don't fail to come to my assistance in this matter as I am sadly in need of priests.

✦ J. W.

(Copied from the original in the General Archives)











